

## New Kuwait cabinet sworn in

KUWAIT (AP) — A new 16-member cabinet that includes six politicians drawn from opposition ranks, the largest number ever, was sworn in Sunday. In a ceremony at Bayan Palace, the ministers pledged to Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah to respect the constitution, abide by the law and defend the people's freedoms, interests and money. The same oath will be taken by deputies of the 50-member parliament Tuesday as it begins its first session following elections in which opposition candidates swept 35 seats. The cabinet includes six parliament members drawn from opposition ranks, double the largest number chosen before. It also included four members of the ruling family in addition to Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister. The remaining ministers are non-royal technocrats. "This cabinet will improve the relationship between the legislative and the executive authority," Ahmad Al Rubai, the new education minister, told the Associated Press. (See story on page 2).



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## rown Prince attends Chicago banquet

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday attended a lunch banquet held in his honor by the Arab Society in Chicago. Several Jordanian societies in Illinois. At the banquet, which was attended by their Royal Highness Princesses Sarvath Al Hassan and Princess Rahma, Prince Hassan conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people to members of the Arab community in Chicago. Several members of the society, named by the crown prince, and voicing Jordanian community's joy at King Hussein's recovery from the surgery he underwent in U.S. At the banquet, Prince Hassan was presented with tokens from a representative of the city. Princess Sarvath and Princess Rahma were also presented with tokens from members of the Al Fuhais Society. Al Fuhais is a town located about 15 kilometers west of Amman.

## ague, UAE hold solidarity talks

ABU DHABI (AP) — The emir of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Sunday met with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in a meeting aimed at strengthening ties between the two emirates. The official Emirati news agency quoted Secretary General Esam Abdul Meguid as saying he hoped for real Arab solidarity and healing the rifts on the Arab world. Mr. Meguid spoke to the agency after meeting with Sheikh Zayed, the president of the United Arab Emirates.

## quake shakes Algeria; no casualties reported

ALGIERS (AP) — Algerians jolted by the deadly Cairo earthquake in Egypt felt their homes shake in a moderate tremor rattled Western part of the country, authorities Sunday reported. The earthquake Saturday registered 5.0 on the Richter scale, Algeria's Centre of Seismology and Geophysics Research reported. It centered on a town about 100 kilometers west of the capital. The shaking sent residents pouring into the streets, fearful their homes would collapse like the buildings that tumbled in last week's quake in Cairo that killed at least 534 people, police said. Many slept on the sidewalks returned to their homes only to find damage was reported. In one case, a quake destroyed the west town of Al Asnam, killing 100 people and leaving thousands hurt. An earthquake in 1991 killed about 20 people in Algeria and left injured several others.

## men hit Algerian police post

ALGIERS (R) — Three gunmen Sunday wounded a local policeman when they burst into his post in the Algerian town of Saida. The police officer was killed. The gunmen were armed with rifles and handguns. They were seen fleeing the scene in a dark van. The police are searching for the suspects. The incident occurred in the town of Saida, which is located about 100 kilometers from the capital, Algiers. The police are searching for the suspects. The incident occurred in the town of Saida, which is located about 100 kilometers from the capital, Algiers. The police are searching for the suspects.

## nton: Turkey must withdraw from Cyprus

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton Sunday said Turkey must withdraw its troops from Cyprus. Clinton was quoted as saying in an interview with the Athens newspaper "To Vima" that the United States must take a stand on the issue. He said that the United States must support the Greek Cypriot government and demand the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island. Clinton said that the United States must support the Greek Cypriot government and demand the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island.

## Arabs endorse 7th round of peace talks, reiterate quest for total solution

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab parties to peace negotiations with Israel Sunday ended a two-day coordination meeting in Amman, saying that they will send representatives to the seventh round of bilateral talks scheduled to convene in Washington Wednesday, but they also reaffirmed their commitment to a comprehensive peace on the basis of a complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967. The meeting was earlier described as a regular session to organize Arab position ahead of the seventh round of peace talks but observers said it had taken on added significance in light of reports that Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa was seeking the meeting's response to a set of Israeli proposals following his visit to Israel earlier this month. Participants at the meeting denied, however, that Mr. Musa had presented any such offers. Mr. Musa "did not present any proposals to the meeting," said head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks Abdul Salam Al Majali. In a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Egypt said that the settlement of

the Arab-Israeli conflict should be "comprehensive and should proceed on all fronts in accordance with the principles upon which the peace process was launched" in Madrid, Spain, in October last year. The meeting "reviewed developments in the peace process and reiterated the commitment of the Arab side to the peace process and the basic Arab principles which were adopted in Damascus on July 25," said the statement, read out by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber at the end of a three-and-a-half hour second session at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. The Damascus meeting called for PLO participation in the peace talks along with Palestinians from Jerusalem and those living in the diaspora; demanded a total freeze of Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories; commitment to comprehensive peace in the region and full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425, and urged Israel to show proof of abandoning the former Likud government's policy of prolonging and obstructing the peace process. Blaming the failure of the sixth round of peace talks, which ended in Washington last month, to produce any real progress on the lack of a "clear Israeli strategy for

peace," the delegates urged Israel to withdraw from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 in compliance with international legitimacy. The delegations, headed by Dr. Abu Jaber, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, head of the Political Department at the PLO Farouk Kaddoumi, Ambassador Jafer Mnadi from Lebanon, and Mr. Musa of Egypt demanded that Israel implement resolutions 242, 338 and 425, and urged the co-sponsors of the peace talks, the United States and Russia, to intensify their efforts to push the peace process forward. According to Saeb Erekat, member of the Palestinian team, the meeting cleared tension between the PLO and Syria over Palestinian statements voicing fear that Damascus would enter into a separate peace treaty with Tel Aviv in return for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. "The reports (about a separate Syrian-Israeli deal) were an attempt by Israel to divide the Arabs," Mr. Erekat said. Syria is committed to a comprehensive solution and "whatever tension that existed is now cleared," Mr. Erekat said. Sources who attended the

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## Ashrawi regrets attacks on Israelis after van blast kills woman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi Sunday expressed her sorrow over the bombing of an Israeli van in the occupied West Bank in which a woman was killed. Saturday night's attack, the latest in a wave of bloody incidents leading up to the resumption of Mideast peace talks in Washington this week, increased pressure on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government crack down on the Palestinians. Israeli officials demanded that the Palestinians condemn the attack, but Dr. Ashrawi refrained from censuring it outright. "I honestly regret the loss of innocent lives," said Dr. Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks. "I find it extremely unfortunate and sad and painful that people have to continue paying with their lives for such an

ongoing conflict," she told Israeli Radio. "While we are not going to compare pain, I just think that the fact of the occupation has to come to an end so that we can approach each other as human beings and not as two parties in conflict," she said. Dr. Ashrawi left Sunday for the seventh round of peace talks scheduled to begin Wednesday in Washington. "Hearing condemnation is not only needed and wanted, but it's essential," said Police Minister Moshe Shaleh on Israeli Radio. The roadside bomb blast also wounded nine others, two seriously, and brought the death toll for the week to seven Palestinians and three Israelis. Hundreds of Jewish youths stoned Arab cars in the southern Galilee Saturday night in revenge for the death of a local farmer in his fields. And on Sunday morn-

ing, dozens of Jewish settlers from the occupied territories demonstrated outside Mr. Rabin's residence. The right-wing opposition Likud Party blamed the violence on the government's conciliatory policies. Likud lawmakers will meet Tuesday at the slain farmers' settlement in protest of the deteriorating situation. Authorities said the van triggered a trip-wire roadside bomb 27 kilometers east of Tel Aviv and caught fire. Most of the 10 occupants escaped but a jammed door trapped a woman inside. "My wife had difficulty getting out. The fire spread quickly and she died in the flames," her husband told Israeli Radio moments after the blast. Mr. Shaleh called an emergency meeting of the top officers to discuss improving security.

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## Cairo calm after night of protests but police still around

CAIRO (Agencies) — Riot police remained deployed around Cairo Sunday but the city was quiet after a night of violent demonstrations by around 5,000 people left homeless by a killer earthquake who protested lack of government aid and housing. Police started questioning 58 people arrested after a demonstration by 1,000 people in Balqa area turned violent with people burning tyres and throwing stones at street lights, shop windows, and at Akhbar newspaper's offices.

Two demonstrators were injured by shots, but police said they were fired by security men at the Al Akhbar newspaper and not by policemen. President Hosni Mubarak and a Red Crescent official acknowledged that there have been delays in relief and housing reaching thousands of people left homeless by Monday's earthquake which measured 5.9 on the Richter scale. The quake left 543 people dead and 6,512 wounded. Thousands of buildings around the country were destroyed or damaged. "With the increase in the size of the problem, maybe there was some sort of red tape by some

officials," Mr. Mubarak told reporters Sunday when asked to comment about the demonstrations. "The state does not rest day or night ... it could take between four and six weeks before each person whose home collapsed gets a new one." Abdul Wahab Shalaby of the Red Crescent, which is coordinating relief effort with the government and other organizations, said that few of the relief supplies donated by the international community and Egyptians have been distributed. "We have only distributed a few supplies to some organizations, 100 blankets here and there. But the rest is waiting for the final comprehensive tabulation of those affected by the earthquake and what they need. This will be ready today," Mr. Shalaby told the Associated Press.

President Mubarak warned against street protests, saying "loud voices" would not influence government relief operations. Mr. Mubarak said everyone would receive shelter but the process could take four to six weeks. "We should be patient," Mr.

Mubarak told reporters. "Marches and loud voices will not prevent us from proceeding along the road drawn by the state to solve the problem." But people queuing outside government offices in search of assistance said the government was ignoring them. "We would like the president to come down on the streets and see what the state of people is like," said Ahmad Salim, a father of six with tears in his eyes. Riot police kept a close watch on Cairo flashpoints after the street protests Saturday. Armoured trucks and vehicles packed with riot police were poised at major intersections in balqa, where police fired-tear gas Saturday night to scatter youths throwing stones. Streets were crowded with normal traffic and the only signs of the riots were three smashed traffic lights and burn marks on streets from a few fires. Mr. Salim said the Muslim Brotherhood, a fundamentalist group credited by many Egyptians with responding faster to the needs of earthquake victims than the government, had visited them and promised to help.

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KING MEETS ARAB DELEGATES: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives at Raghdan Palace the foreign ministers and chief delegates of Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan who concluded a coordination meeting here ahead of this week's resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks. The King was briefed on the outcome of the meeting. His Majesty underlined the need for continued cooperation among the Arab parties concerned and reiterated that a peace settlement should be based on international legitimacy, comprehensive solutions on all fronts and all tracks (Petra photo)

## Shbeilat and Qarrash lawyers quit case in protest over 'secret' witness

By Sama Atiyeh  
and P.V. Vivekanand

MARKA — The three-week old trial involving Lower House of Parliament members Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash took a dramatic turn Sunday with lawyers defending the two deputies withdrawing from the case in protest against the court's handling of the proceedings and after Mr. Shbeilat declared an indefinite hunger-strike in detention. Sunday's dramatic developments were also highlighted when, for the second time since the trial began, a large crowd gathered outside the State Security Court in Marka to chant slogans in support of Mr. Shbeilat and pledging to continue their protests in support of the deputy, who, they maintained, was "innocent and clean."

Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarrash, along with two shopkeepers, are accused of belonging to an illegal organisation called Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami, whose objective, according to the prosecution, was to replace the regime with a caliphate-style leadership, and of possession of arms and explosives. The two deputies are also charged with instigating others to topple the regime and undermining Jordanian-Iraqi relations. In addition, Mr. Shbeilat faces charges of slandering His Majesty the King and members of Parliament. The withdrawal by the defence team came in protest against a secret session the court held Saturday, where a witness identified only as "Yassin Ramadan Yassin" testified against Mr. Shbeilat, in what Presiding Judge Lieutenant-Colonel Youssef Faouri described as a voluntary move by the witness "to reveal the truth."

The defence lawyers argued that Saturday's session was unscheduled and they were not given enough prior notice to attend the session. Some of them said they were not informed at all. Judge Faouri responded that the presence of one or two defence lawyers was enough since it was a collective team that represented the defendants. Another major disagreement between prosecution and defence Saturday was over cross-examining the witness, who, according to court sources, wore a headress which masked most of his face and who averted any face-to-face contact with the defence. Prosecutor-General Mohammad Hijazi said the witness did not want to reveal his identity and was in a hurry to get back to "his country" and hence the secret, unscheduled session. Saturday, Major Hijazi would only say that the witness was an "Arab national" and did not publicly identify the country he came from. Defence lawyers Ibrahim Bakr, Mahmoud Hammad and Jamal Dmour, who did attend Saturday's session, asked for four days to prepare their questioning of the witness and the prosecution objected, citing the witness' travel plans. The court ruled for immediate questioning and the defence declined and then notified the court of their withdrawal from the case.

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## Hassan II hopes to mediate Arab rifts

RABAT (R) — Morocco's King Hassan sets out on his biggest tour of the Middle East for 30 years this week in a drive to heal regional rifts and push forward Arab-Israeli peace efforts. Officials said he would try to reforge Arab solidarity after the Gulf war and heal splits between individual states. The Moroccan monarch, who has close ties with the United States and Europe, which he visits frequently, will tour Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Syria and Egypt. A senior palace source said the tour would start Tuesday — the day before Middle East peace talks were due to resume in Washington. The King would head a large government delegation to Jeddah to confer with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. The source said the main topics at his talks in the five states would be the Middle East peace process, inter-Arab disputes, the rise of Muslim fundamentalism, sanctions against Iraq and Libya, and bilateral economic and financial relations. Reports that the king would try to arrange a meeting in Morocco between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were described by the source as "pure fantasy."

King Hassan, 63, had inconclusive talks in Morocco with an earlier Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, in July 1988. Their meeting prompted Mr. Assad to brand him as a traitor to the Arab cause. Rabin broke off relations with Damascus but they were restored in January 1989. "King Hassan's forte is as a moderate mediator. On the Western edge of the Arab world, he is not directly involved in Middle East crises and can view them dispassionately," a senior Western diplomat said. The king is reputed to have helped to arrange the visit to occupied Jerusalem by former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. He has said several times he is willing to talk to the Israelis "as long as they have something constructive to say."

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## U.N. team continues hunt for Scud missiles in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — United Nations experts hunting for Scud missiles left their Baghdad hotel Sunday to inspect undisclosed sites outside the Iraqi capital, a U.N. source said. The 50-member team, led by Nikita Smidovich of Russia, is checking intelligence reports that Iraq may still have hundreds of Scud missiles left over from an arsenal of 919 either bought from the Soviet Union or developed domestically in the form of extended-range variants — the Al Hussein, Al Abbas and Sejeel. Iraq fired some of these missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the war over Kuwait in 1991. Under the terms of a Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq must get rid of missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres and dismantle its facilities for producing them. It was Mr. Smidovich's second

day hunting Scud missiles. On Saturday he visited several sites but refused to answer reporters' questions about his findings. A U.N. source in Baghdad said: "They are out in the field right now. They've gone to an undisclosed site outside Baghdad." On Saturday, the inspectors boarded German-made helicopters and flew well inside the West's "no-fly" zone in the south, said the source, who asked not to be named. The United Nations coordinates its flight into the "no-fly" zones in the south and the north with the Western powers enforcing them — the United States, Britain and France. Iraq had tried to postpone Mr. Smidovich's mission and then asked Rolf Ekens, the head of the U.N. special commission on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, to take part.

The United Nations turned down Iraq's requests but the disagreement has had little apparent effect on the mission. "We have long-term relations with them (the Iraqis). They know us. We know them," Mr. Smidovich said on Saturday. Some Iraqis have thrown tomatoes at the Sheraton Hotel, where the U.N. inspectors are staying. Restaurants refuse to serve the inspectors and taxi drivers will not carry them. Mr. Smidovich had said he was aware of the public animosity but his team was acting under a Security Council mandate. Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hummadi said Saturday the government would cooperate with Mr. Smidovich's mission and ensure the safety of his team. Iraq's latest dealings with the U.N. indicate that smooth rela-

tions are of utmost importance for Baghdad in the final weeks before the U.S. presidential election, diplomats say. "There is a visible change in the Iraqi attitude," said Shaikat Fareed, who helped negotiate the package in his role as deputy to Jan Eliasson, U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs. "The government seems to be more understanding." Ordinary Iraqis as well as the government are showing great interest in the fate of President George Bush, who rallied the military coalition that forced Iraq to leave Kuwait and who has resolved that U.N. sanctions should remain in place until President Saddam Hussein is driven from power.

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## Somali faction agrees to deployment of U.N. troops

MOGADISHU (R) — The clan faction controlling northwest Somalia Sunday agreed to the deployment of U.N. troops to guard relief operations, U.N. officials said. Clan elders and leaders of the Somali National Movement (SNM), the separatist rulers of the region known as Somaliland, announced in a letter they had agreed to allow troops to be stationed in the port of Berbera, a U.N. statement said. "A formal agreement will be signed in the coming days," said the statement. Clan leaders in some other areas are still resisting deployment of U.N. guards. Mogadishu-based warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed said

Saturday he did not want any foreign forces other than 500 Pakistanis who arrived in the capital last month. He wants the United Nations to fund the creation of a 6,000-strong police force under his control instead. On Friday the U.N. Security Council warned factions which have carved Somalia into warring fiefdoms not to block efforts to deploy 3,500 U.N. troops who will help distribute food to 4.5 million people affected by famine. The Pakistani battalion is due to move into the port and airport this week to start combating banditry. A further 750 Canadian troops

are expected to arrive in the northeastern port of Bosaso next month. Al Itihad, a group of Islamic fundamentalists whose militias have been active in the northeast, has warned the U.N. not to deploy the Canadians. The U.N. also wants to send troops to the famine-hit southern port of Kismayu and has yet to get the Kenyan government to agree to the deployment of peacekeeping troops along its border with Somalia. Renewed fighting erupted in a large area of the south last week and relief workers feeding over 200,000 people had to be evacuated. The U.N. statement urged other clan leaders who have not

accepted foreign troops to heed calls by the Security Council and the U.N.'s special representative for Somalia. "The delay in deploying security personnel to ensure the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance would only prolong the suffering of their people," it said. U.N. sources say Austria, Belgium and Egypt have agreed to send forces but it is not yet clear who will be stationed in Berbera. The northwest seceded 17 months ago as Somalia spiralled into anarchy following the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991. The region was a British colony until it joined the rest of Somalia, which had been under Italian rule, at independence in 1960.



## UNICEF confident Iraq relief plan will go ahead

By Laney Salisbury  
and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The chief executive officer of a U.N. agency left Amman Sunday voicing confidence that new agreement he had worked out with the Iraqi government on relief operations in the war-ravaged country would be implemented soon.

"I expect this relief operation will work out relatively smoothly and get off on a large-scale very quickly," said James P. Grant, executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), before he flew out of Jordan after an overnight stop.

Mr. Grant, who arrived here late Saturday after spending four days of labour negotiations with Iraqi officials in Baghdad, said he was convinced that the Baghdad government would honour its part of the bargain.

"The Iraqi government has made it clear in many ways that they are keenly interested in the relief programme and that it would make the programme work," he told the Jordan Times.

He left the UNICEF regional office in Amman after a meeting with staff members.

Mr. Grant, whose negotiations with Iraq were stymied by Baghdad's insistence that it assume total responsibility for distribution of relief supplies, said: "It is a programme for all of Iraq, including the three northern govern-

rates." The UNICEF chief was referring to the areas controlled by Kurdish dissidents opposed to the regime of President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Grant said the operations planned under the new agreement include the supply of "badly-needed spare parts" for water-pumping equipment and other machinery involved in humanitarian relief.

Iraq is still under an international embargo imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, but food and medicine and "supplies related to relief" are exempt from the sanctions. However, Baghdad argues that it is unable to purchase its essential needs because of the lack of funds.

Mr. Grant said he was "satisfied with the prospect that more than 90 per cent of the new programme will move forward smoothly."

Mr. Grant was accompanied by senior U.N. officials, including Shawkat Fareed, a deputy to Jan Eliasson, the under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs.

The agreement in principle reached between Mr. Grant and the Iraqi officials in expected to be formalised at the U.N. headquarters on Monday. It ends months of uncertainty over international relief efforts in Iraq following the expiry of an earlier agreement.

Differences remain over the strength of United Nations guards to be deployed in Iraq supervise the distribution of relief supplies. Iraq wants their number to be around 150, while the U.N. insists on 300 to 500.

A total of about \$200 million is expected to be spent in Iraq under the new agreement. Roughly half of it will go to the Kurdish-controlled areas in the north.

Supply to the north was one of the major sticking points in the U.N.-Iraq negotiations. Baghdad insisted that the lion's share of supplies be distributed in Central Iraq, and the agreement reached Saturday was seen as a compromise.

The U.N. wants to send fuel, food and medicine before winter sets in to a "safe haven" for the Kurds set up by the American-led Western coalition which fought Iraq out of Kuwait last year.

Over 1.5 million Kurds fled their villages to Iran and Turkey after a rebellion they staged against the government after the war failed.

Most of them have returned to the "protective zone."

Mr. Grant also addressed the pressing question of immunisation for Iraqi children. He said the agreement, which will be valid until March 31, includes a "nationwide immunisation campaign," which is expected to be completed by Jan. 31, 1993.

He said the immunisation



James P. Grant

programme will be launched throughout Iraq and that by Jan. 31, 1993, 80 per cent of Iraq's children will be vaccinated against measles.

But, some Amman-based relief groups that travel often to Iraq say the new aid programme may be too late.

According to the Middle East Council of Churches, child mortality rates have risen between three to five per cent since the exodus of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) earlier this year.

Two new diseases are spreading among children, and according to the Jordan Red Crescent Society, Iraq does not have medical supplies to screen blood for hepatitis B, a virus that attacks the liver and is contracted from unsanitary food and water.

"We are going to be facing a weak generation of Iraqi children. It is really disastrous," said Jordan Red Crescent Society Vice-President Mohammad Al Hadid.

## Newspaper probe says U.S. decided Italy knew nothing of Iraq loans

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times reported Sunday that an investigation of U.S. documents shows the Department of Justice believed the Italian government knew a bank it owned secretly loaned billions of dollars to Iraq.

The billions in loans helped the Iraqi government rebuild from the Iraq-Iraq war for its invasion of Kuwait, and have spun off a federal court case and an embarrassing political problem during President George Bush's reelection campaign.

However, the Times report says, the Department of Justice "inexplicably" changed its mind just before the 1991 federal indictment of Christopher Dragoul, a bank officer at the Atlanta branch of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL).

Before that, the report says, a Nov. 29, 1990 memo from the chief of the Department of Justice fraud section, Lawrence A. Urgenson, complained of a "virtual absence of any hard probing of Rome's guilt."

But then the Department of Justice suddenly agreed with the federal prosecutors investigating

the case, who in late 1989 decided that the Italian government must have been aware of the illegal loans, the report says.

"During 1989 and 1990, the Italian government extensively lobbied United States government officials, including the American ambassador in Rome and senior administration officials in Washington, explaining that the case could have severe foreign policy implications," the Times said.

The Times concluded that if the Italian government was aware of the loans its bank had made to Iraq and "was somehow involved, the scandal could have damaged Italy's banking system and toppled the government of Premier Giulio Andreotti."

The acting U.S. attorney in Atlanta, Gerilyn Brill, was recently quoted as saying that her team of prosecutors went into the case in August 1989 with an open mind, "but we never came up with evidence higher-ups were involved," the Times said.

However, the Times cited memos from Mr. Urgenson as complaining that the prosecutors relied almost wholly on BNL

officers in New York and Rome for their evidence.

The prosecution team also felt it was essential to portray the Italian government as an innocent victim of the bank fraud in order to build a coherent case that would hold up in court, the Times reported.

In 1991, Mr. Dragoul was charged as the mastermind of the bank fraud scheme, involving \$5 billion in loans to Iraq and other countries. He pleaded guilty, but later withdrew his plea, and the case will now go to trial.

Democrats are making dark hints that the case is a good example of President Bush's coding of Iraq for strategic purposes as a counterweight to Iran's influence in the Mideast.

The Bush administration has denied that it tried to cover up U.S. knowledge of the BNL loan scandal, and under their pressure, last week the U.S. attorney general named a special investigator to look into the administration's handling of the case.

The Times report said its investigations "do not resolve such questions" about hidden motives or a potential coverup.

## Israeli Arabs in Tunis for PLO talks

TUNIS (AP) — A four-man delegation of Israeli Arabs was in Tunis Sunday in a challenge to an Israeli law banning contacts with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

The head of the delegation, Knesset member Abdul Wahab Al Darawish, said the delegation representing the Arab Democratic Party in Israel intends to show disregard to law.

"We are against this cursed law and here we are to show that we break it," Mr. Darawish said.

The four, who arrived late Saturday night, were expected to meet with Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the PLO and other PLO leaders to discuss the Middle East peace talks and the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Darawish said they encourage the Palestinian leaders to pursue the peace negotiations with Israel, which he described as "a realistic line" to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## 2 Abu Nidal loyalists killed in factional fighting

SIDON (AP) — Two activists of Palestinian hardliner Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council (FRC) were assassinated in South Lebanon Sunday hours after the murder of a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) loyalist, police said.

They identified the victims as Riad Kawash, 39, an FRC security official, and an assistant, Ihab Rifai, 27.

The pair were intercepted as they drove along Sidon's seaside boulevard in a yellow Mercedes-Benz at 10:00 a.m. (0800 GMT). Gunmen in a blue BMW raked the Mercedes with automatic weapons. Death was instantaneous, police said.

No one claimed responsibility for the killing, the second in 14 hours. But police theorized the latest murders were part of the elimination war between FRC

and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fateh guerrilla faction.

Gunmen killed Mohammad Ali Howaidi, 34, a Fateh activist, outside his house in the southern port of Tyre, 40 kilometres south of Sidon Saturday night.

Fateh sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Rifai and Mr. Kawash were suspected of involvement in the June 9 assassination of Anwar Madi, Fateh's militia commander in Sidon's 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp.

Mr. Madi's assassination came a day after PLO security chief Atef Bseiso was gunned down in Paris June 8. So far, 14 activists from both sides have been killed since Mr. Bseiso's murder.

Mr. Arafat has been at loggerheads with Abu Nidal since he broke away from Fateh in 1973 to form his dissident group.

## Moroccan opposition protests poll results

RABAT (AP) — A major Moroccan opposition party Sunday charged that irregularities marred nationwide elections for local assemblies officially won by pro-government parties.

The nationalist Istiqlal Party, which gained about 13 per cent of the 22,282 seats at stake in 1,544 districts, denounced the results in its French-language newspaper, L'Opinion.

"These irregularities prejudice the credibility of the vote," the newspaper said in an editorial.

"The results consecrate practices that threaten democratic life," the newspaper said that the voting was marked by unspecified violations of the law. The Ministry of Interior has reported that five people died in clashes between rival political groups.

The pro-government National Rally of Independents, strong in rural areas, won 22 per cent of the vote, the largest single share among the eight parties and thousands of independents competing.

If the voting patterns hold up in parliamentary elections expected in a few months, King Hassan's rule in the country will be largely unaffected.

Interior Minister Driss Basri announced Saturday that 75 per cent of the electorate cast ballots,

down from the widely disbelieved official figure of 99 per cent that reportedly participated in a constitutional reform referendum Sept. 4.

Morocco's other main opposition party, the leftist Socialist Union for Popular Forces, saw its share of the vote almost double to seven per cent. The party is strongest in heavily unionised Casablanca, Morocco's largest city.

The series of votes — constitutional referendum, local elections and as-yet unscheduled legislative elections — have been called by the king amid a background of democratic changes sweeping Africa and pressure by foreign governments to improve his human-rights record.

The constitutional reforms, however, amount to minor tinkering and leave the monarch's vast powers largely intact.

The elections extend to the disputed Western Sahara, which Morocco has colonised and claims as a province.

The Polisario guerrilla movement, which has waged a 16-year campaign for the territory's independence, claims the elections are an attempt to circumvent a much-postponed United Nations referendum on the Western Sahara's future.

## Opposition unhappy with new Kuwaiti cabinet

KUWAIT (AP) — Opposition politicians have welcomed an appointment of six of their number to the new 16-man cabinet, but said too many key ministers remained in the hands of the ruling Al Sabah family.

The opposition swept 35 of 100 seats in the parliament Oct. 5. They wanted the crown prince and prime minister Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah to recognise the post-war change by picking the majority of ministers from the parliament.

Crucial portfolios such as foreign affairs, defence, interior and information were handed to Sabahs, who have ruled Kuwait for 240 years.

"The formation of this cabinet shows some response to our demands for the reform of executive authority," said Ahmed Al Dayeen, a member of the Kuwaiti Forum, a liberal opposition group established after the liberation of the emirate from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

"But key ministries are still the hands of the ruling family, a someone who showed inability during the invasion crisis are bad Mr. Dayeen said.

The opposition politicians called for an investigation into the government's failure to prevent the Iraqi invasion of Aug. 1990 and a probe into the collapse of the armed forces.

After long days of consultations between Sheikh Saad's parliament members, the crown prince agreed to give them posts, double the most he has chosen in the past.

Jassem Al Saadoun, an independent economist, said a change in the government was the better, but not fundamental.

"This is a middle-of-the-road government. It has more depth than the previous ones, but Al Sabahs and the return ministers are still the major and can make the difference voting decisions in the council ministers," Mr. Saadoun said.

Shafiq Al Ghabra, a political science professor at Kuwait University, said the formation of new government was a "historic step" for Kuwait.

He said the inclusion of a large number of opposition figures showed that the ruling far read the changes in post-Kuwait well.

It is not clear yet if the opposition figures, who were critics of government policies during the campaigns, will go along with Al Sabahs on economic and political issues.

It is also too early to whether their inclusion in cabinet will make it easier for government to work with parliament. The Al Sabahs shut the last full parliament in 1985 after it criticised the performance of government ministers.

"I believe the chances of confrontations have lessened especially when it comes to being officials accountable for performance that led to the invasion," said Mr. Saadoun.

"We will see more agreement between the parliament and cabinet to refer issues such as foreign investments to courts."

The parliament is expected to vote in its first session Tuesday hundreds of laws passed by government in its absence, including a \$24 billion plan to out bad debts held by the state's banks.

In the new cabinet, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fozouni Al Sabah kept as interior minister. Sheikh Ali Al Sabah remained defence minister.

## Afghan rebel chiefs meet to try avoid more violence

KABUL (AP) — Renegade rebel chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar Saturday accused Afghanistan's Islamic government of reneging on its promise to purge the army of former communists and militia forces.

At a meeting of rebel chiefs on the outskirts of the battle-weary capital, Mr. Hekmatyar warned of a violent showdown with government troops if the purge does not take place. He did not set a deadline.

Mr. Hekmatyar has waged successive battles with Afghanistan's struggling rebel government since it took power last April from the

communist regime it fought nearly 14 years to overthrow.

A firebrand fundamentalist, who advocates a rigid Islamic order in Afghanistan, Mr. Hekmatyar warned there would be no lasting peace until militia troops, he reviles as communists, are evicted from the capital.

At Saturday's meeting, the four rebel chiefs, led by Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, a so-called moderate, warned Islamic Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani against holding on to power after his term expires on Oct. 28.

"We decided Rabbani should

not be president for a minute longer than Oct. 28," Mr. Mohammadi told reporters after the meeting.

He said rebel leaders fear Mr. Rabbani will try to stay in power until a "shura" or grand council can be convened to choose his replacement and prepare for nationwide elections.

The council is to be convened by Oct. 28 according to a power-sharing agreement brokered in Pakistan last April to fill the vacuum created by the collapse of the communist regime.

But few expect the deadline to be met.

Mr. Mohammadi said Mr. Rabbani will be asked to hand power over to the leadership council, comprised of the most powerful rebel chiefs, until the grand council can be convened.

Mr. Mohammadi said he and orthodox Islamic rebel chiefs Raul Sayyaf and Yunis Khalis met Mr. Hekmatyar to prevent another assault on the city.

In at least six separate assaults on the capital since last April, Mr. Hekmatyar's rebel fighters have killed and wounded thousands of people and sent hundreds of thousands more fleeing the embattled capital.

## Rabin's first 100 days in office bring new approach

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yitzhak Rabin's style and approach to Middle East peacemaking have transformed the political atmosphere during his first 100 days in power.

Gone are the finickiness and doctrinaire rhetoric of the previous government of Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud Party. Mr. Rabin's Labour Party promised the voters it could deliver peace, and it is in a hurry to get on with the job.

The talks, which are nearing the one-year anniversary of their launch in Madrid, were an outcome of the Gulf war and the political tremors it sent through the Arab World.

The need for new thinking was felt in Israel too, and had much to do with Mr. Rabin's election victory.

Palestinians complain that the change is in style, not in content. But Mr. Rabin, a methodical military man, believes in going step by cautious step, and so far his main preoccupation has been with removing the irritants.

Thus he quickly limited Jewish settlement construction in

the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip — not sufficiently to win Palestinian applause, but enough to unblock \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to house and create jobs for hundreds of thousands of immigrants.

Within a week of taking over as prime minister, Mr. Rabin travelled to Egypt and ended a six-year freeze in relations with the only Arab country so far to make peace with Israel.

He made it clear that on a key negotiating point, he was open to territorial compromise with Syria, and offered the Palestinians a slew of concessions which, however limited, at least signalled an openness to change.

"These are important concessions and they are connected to the basic difference between the Likud and the Labour Party ideology," said Gabi Sheffer, a political scientist at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Shamir didn't hide the fact that he was dragging his feet. Rabin knows if you are looking for peace you have to make

concessions," he said in an interview.

Other irritants that have been swept aside: — No longer are Palestinian negotiators harassed and threatened with prosecution each time they meet with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership in Tunis;

— Israel has agreed to allow Palestinians from abroad to participate in the multilateral talks that parallel the peace negotiations in Washington. Mr. Shamir adamantly refused, arguing that this would legitimise the Palestinian claim on homes lost when Israel was created in 1948;

— Expulsions, a controversial means by which the Shamir government dealt with Palestinian activists, have been suspended and hundreds of Palestinians freed from prison; — When prisoners went on a mass hunger-strike Sept. 27, no less a person than Mr. Rabin's police minister was sent to negotiate a solution.

Palestinian leaders are unimpressed, saying Mr. Rabin's

gestures are not enough to produce concrete results at the negotiating table.

They stress that Mr. Rabin has not budged on the issue of ceding Israeli "sovereignty" over Jerusalem and has stuck to the Shamir-era formula for autonomy, which they say would not lead to a Palestinian state. Indeed, Mr. Rabin is no less opposed to Palestinian statehood than Mr. Shamir is.

So far there has been no widespread public opposition to any of Mr. Rabin's moves. The test will only come when territorial concessions or the Golan Heights of Syria become a tangible prospect.

More urgent are the economy and the split between orthodox and secular Jews.

Mr. Rabin campaigned on a promise to rejuvenate the economy and ease the 11 per cent unemployment rate. Voters are now being told not to expect an improvement in 1993.

His coalition consists of orthodox rabbis and secular left-wingers who have already clashed repeatedly, and these

frictions could bring down his coalition long before there are any breakthroughs in the peace talks.

Education Minister Shulamit Aloni recently roused the ire of religious parties by suggesting the word "God" be dropped from a prayer for soldiers. A subsequent promise to keep her mouth shut has not helped. Religious legislators recently accused her of eating non-kosher food when in Germany and France.

Labour lawmaker Yael Dayan, daughter of the late military hero Moshe Dayan, also offended orthodox Jews when a photo of her sunbathing in a bikini on Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day of the year, appeared on the front page of a major daily.

Mr. Rabin, who aides say is incensed after an interview with him appeared without his knowledge in the U.S. adult magazine Penthouse, does not take lightly to any provocation by secular legislators. A mere violation of the Sabbath brought down his last government in 1977.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Cartoon
18:10	Les Chevaliers du Ciel
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:40	News in Arabic
20:30	The Power That Be
21:10	A Fine Romance
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Gravy Train
PRAYER TIMES	
04:20	Fajr
05:37	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:21	Dhuhr
14:34	'Asr
17:45	Maghrib
18:22	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlith, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 628226, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823804, 654952	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and winds will be light and variable, changing to northerly moderate, in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
MIL/MAX TEMP.	
Amman	15/20
Aqaba	21/33
Desert	13/22
Jordan Valley	20/34
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 31, Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.	

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Saleh Al Usoud	649028
Dr. Shabaneh Imam	752971
Dr. Husein Kaseem	790286
Dr. Khalid Murtadhi	743500
Fine pharmacy	681912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Azema pharmacy	637053
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmouel pharmacy	637660
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mahmoud Saad	245209
Al Sharaa pharmacy	273825
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ramez Atallah	984424
Ramzi pharmacy	995119

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

### Civil Defence Department

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	890590
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	63021



## Jordan orthopaedic meeting will be first in Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Medical Association and the Jordanian Orthopaedic Association will open a four-day pan-Arab orthopaedic conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman on Tuesday. It will be the first meeting of its kind in the Arab World.

The conference's Secretary General Munther Odeh said that 220 physicians and specialists from Jordan and other nations will take part in the meeting to discuss 70 working papers dealing with orthopaedics.

Dr. Odeh said that a seminar on deformities in children and its early diagnosis will also be held. The delegates, he said, will take part in a live television programme on orthopaedics which will be transmitted from Denmark via satellite. They will also be taken on tours of medical centres and historic sites in the country such as the King Hussein Medical Centre which conducts most orthopaedic treatment in Jordan.

During the conference, a medical exhibition will be organised displaying various equipment used in the field provided by Arab and international companies.

Orthopaedists will come from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia,

Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Canada, the USA, Cuba, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, and Pakistan.

Jordan plans to host another conference organised by the Arab American Physicians and Specialists in June of 1993, in which at least 500 Arab-American doctors will discuss 100 working papers. A delegation representing the Arab-American doctors met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Thursday to brief him on the nature of the conference which will take place between June 20 and 25, and will be the 11th of its kind.

The head of the team Youssef Hamati said that the Arab-American Doctors Society numbers 6,000 members.

The prime minister said Jordan was ready to offer the conference all possible facilities to ensure its success, and called for coordination between Jordanian and Arab-American doctors to improve services at Jordanian hospitals and in operating the projected Al Amal Cancer Centre which will become operational by the end of next year.

## Queen Noor visits village of Gnieh

ZARQA (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inspected programmes and services extended by Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to residents in Gnieh village in Zarqa Governorate and opened a kindergarten established with support from the Promising Hands Society (PHS) in that community.

During her tour, the Queen examined health services offered to children and pregnant mothers in the village by the Foundation's Institute for Child Health and Development and the Woman and Development Project in cooperation with the local health centre. These services included monitoring early hearing and sight abnormalities in 5-6 year old children; tests of pregnant mothers, a lecture on the importance of playing for children and a workshop on the utilisation of locally available inexpensive resources for making children toys.

Her Majesty also met with families benefiting from NHF's Quality of Life Project in the village who raise cows that have been distributed to them recently, and she watched a demonstration of dairy product making by some beneficiary families.



KING HUSSEIN RECEIVES RC PATRIARCH SABBABH: His Majesty King Hussein received Sunday at the Royal Court Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michael Sabbah who conveyed to His Majesty the congratulations of the community on his return home following successful surgery. Patriarch Sabbah also passed to the King the greetings and thanks of the community's members for his continued care of the Islamic and Christian holy places in the occupied Arab territories. King Hussein voiced his thanks for the patriarch's cordial wishes and asked him to convey his greetings to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The meeting was attended by the Roman Catholic Bishop in Amman Saleem Al Sayegh and Deputy Apostolic delegate in Amman Monsignor Raouf Najjar.

## Press conference 'to clear the air between the House and the media'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fallout from the debate in parliament two months ago of alleged corruption cases is continuing, with the Lower House not only taking to court three cases of what it perceives as slander, libel and abuse of officialdom but also reaffirming a tough approach to any such future instances.

"We are determined to see the cases through in court, and let the judicial system of this country decide what is right and wrong," Deputy Speaker of the Lower House Abdul Karim Dughmi, who represents a Mafrq constituency, said Sunday. Addressing a press conference he convened "to clear the air between the House and the media," Mr. Dughmi said the legislative authority would be "more than willing to take press criticism," but "will not tolerate direct letters and messages addressed to the House and containing slander, insult, libel and abuse of officialdom."

Citing the Jordanian constitution, Mr. Dughmi said: "the legislative authority is the main source of all authorities in the Kingdom and as such any encroachment on its sanctity will not be tolerated regardless of the source of such actions."

"The three constitutional authorities — the legislative, executive and judiciary — along with the press have to protect our democratic march," said Mr. Dughmi.

"There may be mistakes on the way, but democracy is the best guarantee for security and stability of the Arab world in general and Jordan in particular, and we are committed to maintaining and safeguarding our democratic process at any cost," he said.

He also paid tribute to the judiciary in Jordan.

Mr. Dughmi outlined the three cases which the House has taken to the court, the first stemmed from a public statement issued by former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai after the House failed to muster a majority to indict him in an alleged corruption

case involving a highway project awarded during his reign in 1987. The statement criticised those who voted in favour of indictment and implied that they were unpatriotic and represented vested interests.

According to Mr. Dughmi, Mr. Rifai's statement "was outright insult of parliament."

The second case, the deputy said, was related to protest telegrams sent by supporters of Mamduh Hawamdeh, who was indicted by the House in the same case, the protest telegrams followed demonstrations in Tafleh, Mr. Hawamdeh's hometown in the south, and a protest rally in front of the domed parliament house at Abdali.

"The telegrams contained slanderous and insulting language," said Mr. Dughmi, a lawyer by profession and a former minister of labour. "The speaker of the House had met with the group (of protesters) and explained the position of the legislative authority, but still they chose to send such messages to the House."

The third case involves Iyad Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), which is under the umbrella of the Ministry of Culture.

Mr. Dughmi said the House took exception with the fact that Mr. Qattan, a "government official who holds the rank of a deputy minister" had addressed his criticism directly to the House.

"For all practical and technical purposes, the letters have come from a government official, and as such, we consider it as the point of view of the government," he said, adding that one of the messages was sent through the facsimile machine installed at the RCC.

"As far as I know, the RCC facsimile machine is installed for the purposes of official business and if we receive a message through that machine we take it as government business," he added.

The Mafrq deputy also used the opportunity to take a swipe at the government saying: "If indeed the executive authority is unhappy with some of the other decision taken by the legislative authority, then this is definitely not the way to handle it."

A copy of letter sent by House

Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and made available to the Jordan Times requested the government to take the "appropriate action" against Mr. Qattan.

In pursuance to this request, Sharif Zeid has sent a letter to the minister of culture asking him to do what was necessary. A copy of that letter was also obtained by the Jordan Times.

Mr. Dughmi argued that Mr. Qattan's letter bore the official titles of the sender, including that of a member of the committee which drafted the National Charter, a member of Amnesty International and a member of the Arab Human Rights Organisation, "as well as that of director of the Royal Cultural Centre."

"Had Mr. Qattan chosen one of the newspapers to criticise us as a writer and columnist, it would have been a different matter altogether. We would not have reacted the way we did," he added, waving a copy of the letter at the press conference.

Under pointed questioning from the press, Mr. Dughmi said the decision to file the case against Mr. Rifai was taken by the full House and the moves against the Tafleh protesters and Mr. Qattan were taken after Parliament recessed on Aug. 26 after this year's extraordinary session.

The bone of contention here was allegations that Speaker Arabiyat, a member of the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, used his own discretion to file the two cases without referring the matter to the full House, the formal plaintiff in the cases.

When one reporter pointed out that reports had surfaced of House plans to go to court over the Tafleh protesters when the House was in session but that the matter was not presented on the House floor before it reached court, Mr. Dughmi insisted that telegrams had reached Parliament after it went to recess.

"You are free to interpret it the way you want but we received some of the telegrams after the House recessed," he told the questioner.

The case against Mr. Qattan will be heard by the court of arbitration beginning Oct. 26. Trial dates for other cases were not immediately known.

## Arab interior ministers plan 1993 meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in a meeting of Arab interior ministers in Tunis to discuss various topics related to internal security for the Arab World, said Interior Minister Jawad Al Shoub.

The Tunis meeting is also expected to focus attention on matters related to easing the passage of passengers and the flow of goods among Arab countries, said the minister following a meeting Sunday with the visiting Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council Ahmad Mohammad Al Salem.

Mr. Al Shoub said that his discussions with Dr. Al Salem covered the various topics on the agenda of the planned ministerial meeting in which he noted, Jordan will adhere to its principles concerning national issues and will remain committed to collective action to protect Arab international interests.

Dr. Al Salem is currently on a tour of Arab countries to prepare the ground for the ministerial parley in Tunis.

Mr. Al Shoub said that his talks with Dr. Al Salem were constructive and a tentative agreement was reached on organising the ministerial meeting for January 1993.

Dr. Al Salem, who left Amman for Cairo later had earlier met with Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali Fuhaid.

## Australian delegation voices support for Palestinian interim self-government

By Laney Salisbury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Winding up a week-long visit to Jordan, the head of an Australian parliamentary delegation left Sunday with parting words aimed at Israel to "make an unambiguous commitment to genuine interim self-government" in the occupied territories.

The delegation, on a fact-finding tour of the region, also discussed strategies with senior government officials to improve Jordanian-Australian trade, cultural and social ties.

"The delegation noted the argument from the Jordanians and the Palestinians that Israel should make an unambiguous commitment to genuine interim self-government for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, including control over resources such as land and water, and, in the medium term, self-determination by the Palestinian people, including their right, if they so choose, to an independent state," delegation leader Andrew Charles Theophanous told reporters at a press conference.

During their stay the six member delegation met several Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representatives and the head of Jordan's delegation to the Middle East peace process, Abdul Salam Majali, who left later Sunday for the seventh round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington.

Mr. Theophanous said that talks with Mr. Majali indicated the Kingdom's "openness and determination" in solving the decades-old Middle East conflict. "The situation in the region is extremely tense because failure

to achieve substantive progress in the peace talks is undermining the goodwill which has been established in favour of negotiations in both Israel and the Arab states," he said.

"It is incumbent on moderate elements, both Israeli and Arab, to seize the initiative and push the process along. A breakthrough in the seventh round of talks commencing in Washington on Oct. 21 is of the utmost importance, not only to the region but also to the world," the MP added.

The delegation is to prepare a report on their visit to be reviewed by Australia's 189-member parliament.

The group said it was impressed with Jordan's steps towards democracy and looked forward to increased trade with the introduction, soon, of direct air links from Amman to Sydney, one of Australia's commercial centres.

In 1990-91, Australia exported about \$18-20 million worth of goods to Jordan, mostly in the form of livestock. Australia imported about \$2.4 million of goods, most in phosphates and fertilisers.

Earlier this week, Jordan exported 33,000 tonnes of phosphates to the continental commonwealth, the second shipment this year of a total 100,000 tonnes to be exported.

"The direct flight from Sydney to Amman could increase links between the two countries, not just economic links but social and cultural ones as well," Mr. Theophanous told the Jordan Times.

The delegation left for Egypt on Sunday, and is scheduled to visit Israel later, next week.

## Land transport company reviews operations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Iraqi land transport company's General Assembly Sunday opened a meeting to review last year's operations, and to map plans for the coming year.

The Jordanian side to the meetings is led by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Subeimat while the Iraqi side is headed by Transport and Communications Minister Abdul Sattar Maini.

In a statement at the outset of the meetings, Mr. Subeimat said Jordan realises the numerous difficulties facing Iraq. The present meeting, he said, reflects the strong relations between the two countries.

Mr. Maini stressed that his country would remain steadfast in the face of all difficulties and challenges and he voiced Iraq's appreciation of Jordan's stand in support of the Iraqi people.

## Jordanian cultural week begins in UAE

ABU DHABI (Petra) — A Jordanian Cultural Week Saturday evening commenced its activities in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The opening ceremony which held at Abu Dhabi cultural complex was attended by more than 2,000 Jordanian, Arab and foreign nationals as well as a number of diplomats and Jordan's ambassador to the UAE Awad Abu Obeid.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Abu Obeid delivered an address in which he expressed his joy that the Jordanian Cultural Week in the Emirates coincide with the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's recovery

from surgery.

Mr. Abu Obeid said the cultural week was the outcome of a joint effort exerted by members of the Jordanian community in the UAE, particularly the Jordanian Women's Society and the Royal Jordanian (RJ) office.

The aim of the week is to enhance relations between Jordan and the UAE, and Arab peoples in general. "We want this week to be a link of love between the peoples of the two brotherly countries," he said.

He added that this week will also be a chance for people in the Emirate to see Jordan's arts and heritage.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artist Nadeem at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil and water-colour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Poster exhibition of the Beatles at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Amer Fatooshi at Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Khreel at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Nightmare Care," dealing with the ecological, economic and social effects of cars, at Al Wihdat Refugee Camp Club.

## THEATRE

- ★ The Arab adaptation of Samuel Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot" at Al Mashini Theatre, Jabal Lulwah — 7:30 p.m.

## LECTURE

- ★ Lecture on "Qasr Al Haleb in the light of recent excavations" by Dr. Ghazi Bishah at the Friends of Archaeology Centre — 7 p.m.

## FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Lettres d'amour de Somalia" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

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Assistant General Manager  
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## Jordan Times

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Established 1975

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## Arabs should not compromise their basic rights

THE ARAB parties to the Middle East peace talks yesterday reaffirmed their commitment to continue their negotiations in pursuit of a comprehensive peace settlement on all fronts. This followed the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Central Council meeting in Tunis which also reaffirmed Palestinian commitment to the peace process. With this in mind, the Arab side need not feel pressured to either offer concessions to the Israelis nor compromise on the basic Arab rights. The Palestinians and their Arab partners should not, as some might suggest, entertain the idea that by pushing the process forward they would enhance the chances of U.S. President George Bush for re-election. Although very few can do very little for Bush at the moment, the U.S. policy on the Middle East will not shift if someone else gets elected. The fact that the Camp David accords were brokered by a Democrat is a reminder of this. The U.S. policy in the Middle East has almost always been constant, and if anything, it would not be tilted towards the Arabs by appeasement but rather by Arab solidarity and persistence.

The last few months have seen growing opposition to the peace process, especially among Palestinians. The Palestinian people want a complete but honourable end to their plight, especially that of the refugees among them who are dispersed in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Unless that and other similar problems are addressed and resolved neither the Palestinians nor the other peoples they live among will see genuine peace. The Arab negotiators should not in any way feel pressed to offer concessions, either because of Israeli intransigence, American pressure, or the dictates of the so-called new world order. Not at a moment when the Arabs themselves are divided.

There are encouraging signs emerging that Arab differences are being resolved. Once that is done the Arab bargaining power should be enhanced. And when a new president is elected in Washington the Arabs should collectively work towards influencing the new administration to put pressure on the Israelis to abide by international law and resolutions.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday expressed deep satisfaction with statements given by the Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa upon his arrival in Amman Saturday to take part in talks mapping the Arab parties' position at the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace talks to resume in Washington soon. The statements, in which the Syrian minister reiterated his country's determination to work towards a comprehensive settlement on all fronts, served as a devastating blow to current Israeli diplomatic manoeuvres aimed at reaching a separate treaty between Israel and Syria, said the daily. Damascus is thus determined to see U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 implemented in the letter and in the spirit on all fronts; and separate treaties between Arab countries and Israel are out of the question, said the daily. The Syrian minister's statement added the daily are bound to stem all Israeli attempts aimed at drawing a wedge in the United Arab ranks and dividing the Arab countries over solutions with the Jewish state over the occupied lands, the paper continued. The meeting in Amman, the paper said, is another manifestation of the Arab parties' determination to consolidate their united position in the face of Israel's ambitious designs. The paper expressed hope that the meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Palestine could pave the ground for a greater Arab meeting to serve the common cause.

THE UNITED States, which is keen on respecting human rights and law and order inside its country, is pursuing, all forms of violations of international law overseas, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday. Fahd Faneek said that in a total disrespect of the rights of others, the U.S. naval forces continue to harass Aqaba-bound ships, forcing delays in the arrivals of much needed basic commodities for the Jordanian people. The writer said that Washington is giving itself the right to act as a pirate on the high seas, in the air and on land, acting in violation of international laws and imposing its will on the United Nations and the countries of the world. It was the United States which caused Russia, a non-U.N. member, to take the seat of the former Soviet Union at the Security Council, and it was Washington which caused the U.N. to expel Yugoslavia from the organisation, said the writer. U.S. forces continue to threaten regimes and territories of many countries around the world and U.S. banks take the liberty in seizing the frozen assets of Iraq under feeble pretexts, said the writer. He said the U.S. could be the strongest military power on earth but it is a power devoid of all morals, justice and law.

## A hard lesson in hope

By Dr. Swee Chai Ang

Dr. Swee Chai Ang arrived in Amman earlier this week and will be a guest speaker at the First Pan-Arab Conference held in Amman from Oct. 20-22, 1992. She is to speak on: orthopaedic aspects of war surgery, elbow synovectomy for rheumatoid arthritis, the plight of the Palestinians. Immediately after the conference, Dr. Swee will leave for the West Bank and Gaza to visit the projects of Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians (JMAP). She will return on Oct. 26, 1992 and will be pleased to speak with members of the press. Dr. Swee is consultant orthopaedic surgeon with the British National Health Service, and author of the book "From Beirut to Jerusalem" about her experiences with the Palestinians in Lebanon. She is co-author of a new book "Textbook of War Surgery" to be published next year. She was previously World Health Organisation consultant on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Dr. Swee contributed this article to the Jordan Times. It also appeared in the Guardian newspaper last month.

OVER THE past 10 years, I have been under pressure to say who I thought was to blame for the Sabra-Shatila massacre. Does it matter that much? On this anniversary I am as convinced as ever that undue debate over who pulled the trigger and on whose orders is a diversion from the fundamental question. Not just how and why did they die? More importantly, why do Palestinians have to die refugees? I discovered that question the hard way.

Until 1982, I was supporter of Israel. I never knew Palestinians existed until my arrival in war-devastated Beirut that year. Television coverage of Israel's aerial bombardment of the city prompted me to respond to an international appeal for Britain to send medical volunteers to tend to the injured and traumatised Lebanese and Palestinian people. Beirut was then under a food, water and medicine blockade. Israel's declared aim in invading its northern neighbour was to flush out the Palestine Liberation Organisation. In the process, it

killed and injured tens of thousands of ordinary people and destroyed homes, hospitals, schools and factories.

I was working in Gaza Hospital — located in the twin refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila which were home to more than 100,000 Palestinians and Lebanese — following the PLO evacuation of Beirut. A multinational Western peacekeeping force was deployed to protect the unarmed Palestinians remaining in the camps. When that force suddenly withdrew in mid-September, an estimated 2,400 defenceless women, children and old people were slaughtered.

Like millions of Palestinians all over the Middle East, the people of Sabra and Shatila first lost their homes in 1948. They were part of the 750,000 Muslims and Christians who fled when their native Palestine became Israel. The U.N. gave them tents while the international community pledged to find them a permanent solution. Four decades later they are still waiting.

The refugees gave birth to children — children who were born refugees, who grew up refugees, and many of whom died refugees. Sabra and Shatila became crowded towns; the canvas tents gave way to houses. Amid the squalor and deprivation, the Palestinians rebuilt their dignity and national coherence. Schools and hospitals were named after places in Palestine: Gaza Hospital, Akka Hospital, Ramallah Maternity Home. From the children I learned Palestinian songs, and from the old people a wealth of oral history, and also how to "cook" Arabic coffee.

My first three weeks in the camps, from late Aug. 1982 until Sept. 15, was a peaceful and precious time because I fell in love with these people. The PLO had evacuated and the ceasefire was holding. The camp families were busy rebuilding their homes and lives, the surgeons were busy cleaning up infected war wounds. Each morning I would look out from the hospital window and watch the newly returned families patch up and decorate their bombed-out homes. I enjoyed the generosity of the camp people, who shared everything with me.

Then suddenly, on Sept. 15, that all changed. War planes flew in, tanks ringed the camp. Shelling started. Gunmen broke into the homes of the refugees and shot up entire families, in the middle of meals, repairing their homes, tucking their young ones into bed.

For 72 hours, until the morning of Sept. 18, our little surgical team had been working without food and sleep to save the lives of those brought into Gaza Hospital

al's basement operating theatre. Finally, at gun-point, we were forced out of our hospital, leaving behind our wounded patients. As I stepped out into full daylight, the truth was painful to eyes accustomed to a dimly-lit basement.

People had been killed in their hundreds — tortured, raped and mutilated, and their bodies left in alleys in twisted heaps, or partially buried in rubble. For days afterwards, more bodies were found and mass graves uncovered. The stench of decaying flesh was inescapable.

Certain images remain vivid. "You are a Christian? And you came to help Palestinians? You are filthy!" my militia captors yelled at me. One pushed me so hard with her rifle that I tripped and fell over the body of an old man. He was cold, dead, and his eyes were dug out.

The homes on both sides of Rue Sabra, the camp's main street were no longer standing. I had seen those same buildings being painted by their proud owners three days before. Now they were heaps of rubble, churned by bulldozers that mixed stones with clothes, furniture and human remains.

Hundreds of the camp people were rounded up at gun-point and lined up on both sides of Rue Sabra. One woman pushed towards me and held out her baby: I took the child from her and understood she wanted me to raise him because she knew she was going to be killed. I held him briefly, but his terrified mother was made to take him back. For days afterwards I roamed the camps, but never saw mother or child again.

The bodies on Rue Sabra forced me to confront my many prejudices. Like many Christians raised on the Old Testament and the Western media, I had held a simplistic view that Palestinians and their PLO were terrorist monsters and never victims of terror. I only believed their story of injustices after they had died. The massacre transformed Western perceptions of the Palestinian people. For the first time, they became human, because humans die.

Nothing will now bring back the dead, so why talk about them? The mood in the Middle East today is one of reconciliation. At the many meetings I have addressed, and at the Israeli Kahan Commission of Inquiry to which I gave evidence, I still find great difficulty talking about the massacre. Yet without bitterness, I know why I must continue to speak up.

Somewhere, deep within, I will always weep for the Palestinians in Lebanon, for the Sabra which no longer exists, and the Shatila which is quietly bleeding to death. While everyone should look forward to the day when the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza can live free, Lebanon's Palestinians must always be remembered.

Like the road to Calvary, the Palestinian journey is long and painful. As a Christian, I see the Sabra-Shatila massacre as a crucifixion. Where then is the resurrection which follows?

My Palestinian friends tell me without that massacre there could not have been the Palestinian intifada. The intifada and the hundreds of injuries and impris-

onments paved the way for the peace process.

But for me, the first stirrings of the resurrection came a lot earlier, in the immediate aftermath of the massacre. A few mornings after Sept. 18, while mass graves were still being uncovered, I went in search of friends and survivors. I was broken and tired. Suddenly, someone small ran up to me and threw his arms around me. A little boy whose broken wrist I treated three weeks ago had spotted me and cried with relief; he thought the gunmen had killed me when he saw me being taken away from the hospital. The child had lost his parents.

Other kids soon joined him and surrounded me. A little girl spotted my pocket camera, and asked me to take a picture of all of them against the background of the remains of the camp. "Doctor, take us, because tomorrow there may be another massacre and we will also die, and the camp will be flattened. But you can show our picture to all the world, and they can see the children of Sabra and Shatila."

As I focused my camera, they raised their hands in the victory V and said: "We are not afraid." Since that day I have been back to Lebanon on half a dozen medical missions. Each time I have looked for those kids, but I never found any one of them. I fear the worst for them. But I have honoured their request. That picture of courage in the face of death I have been able to show the world. It was those children's spirit of victory over death which heralded the resurrection of the Palestinian people.

## Race towards instability

By Edward Mortimer

GLOOM IN Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne. Jubilation, presumably in Lima, Ohio. General Dynamics has won the contract to supply 236 tanks to Kuwait, and Vickers has lost it.

Kuwait is spending about £1bn on this contract. Its only consideration — one that has been almost lost from sight in the discussion about jobs and votes in the U.K. and U.S. — should be whether, protected by those tanks, its citizens can sleep safer in their beds.

Had the tanks been there on Aug. 2, 1990, would Iraq's President Saddam Hussein have been less likely to send his army across the border? Almost certainly it would have made no difference. Iraq would still have had overwhelming superiority, and Kuwait's willingness to spend money on weapons would not have altered Mr. Saddam's low opinion of its fighting spirit.

The weakness of the Gulf emirates and sheikhdoms is structural, not technical. They have a lot of money and very few people. Their neighbours, Iraq and Iran, are always going to be stronger, and Arab Gulf states, faced with renewed aggression from either of them, are always likely to need help from abroad.

You would hardly think it needed saying again, but arms sales are not the route to a safer or more stable Middle East.

Last December the U.N. General Assembly, responding to an initiative from the British government, established an Arms Transfer Register. It listed seven categories of weapons as potentially destabilising, because of their value in offensive operations. Main battle tanks come at the top.

The register is an important first step towards transparency of arms supplies, which in turn is a

crucial confidence-building measure. Arms races, while fuelled partly by greed, can be publicly justified only by fear, and can sometimes be checked by shame. If the facts about your potential adversary's acquisitions are in the public domain, at least you do not have to base your own procurement programme on wild supposition; and in some cases purchases may be inhibited by the knowledge of the governments concerned that they will be placed on public record.

But a list of transfers by itself is not enough. To make it meaningful, the register should include existing national holdings and production. Also, at present transfers have to be registered only when they have physically taken place. Yet orders are often placed years in advance, and governments remain highly secretive about arms deals in the pipeline. When planning your own defences, it is what your adversary may have in the future that is relevant, at least as much as what he has now.

In any case, transparency is only one prerequisite for a solution. Unless arms sales are effectively curtailed, the fact of their being public could even act as a stimulant. Suppliers and purchasers could use the register to show that they are only doing the same as their competitors or adversaries.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council ("the P5"), which happen also to be the largest arms suppliers, took the lead in proclaiming the need for greater restraint in the wake of the Gulf war. On a French suggestion, they have held regular meetings on the subject. But they hardly seem to be practising what they preach.

According to the Saterworld Foundation, a research and lob-

bying charity, the U.S. received arms orders worth about \$28.5bn from the Middle East in the two years following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The principal client was Saudi Arabia, with orders of more than \$17bn — and that was before U.S. President George Bush approved the sale of 72 F-15 fighter jets last month. The administration predicts total U.S. arms sales for 1992 worth \$35bn, the majority going to the Middle East.

Russia is still the second biggest arms supplier, although it is not so generous with precise figures. In 1991 it received orders worth \$2bn from Syria alone, for weapons including T-72 main battle tanks, fighter aircraft and missiles. While Syria claims it needs these weapons to offset Israel's overwhelming superiority, Israel

uses them as an argument to extract yet more sophisticated weapons from the U.S. It seems unlikely that the Middle East peace process, of which both the U.S. and Russia are sponsors, is thereby facilitated.

Even more destabilising, in both Western and Arab eyes, are Russian arms supplies to Iran. The value of these is unknown, but in 1991 they reportedly included 25 Su-24 bombers, 50 MiG-29 fighters, an unknown number of MiG-31 and Su-27 aircraft, and 200 T-72 main battle tanks. A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Sergei Yastrebensky, recently confirmed that Russia would go ahead with a contract to sell three kilo-class diesel-powered submarines to Iran, reportedly worth \$750m,

even though the U.S. Senate has banned any U.S. aid to Russia until arms sales to Iran are halted.

Annual hard-currency revenue from such sales would be three to four times greater than the credit blocked by the Senate, explained a senior official at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations last week — which suggests reports that Iran is interested in purchasing a further 1,000-1,500 tanks and a variety of other equipment may be true.

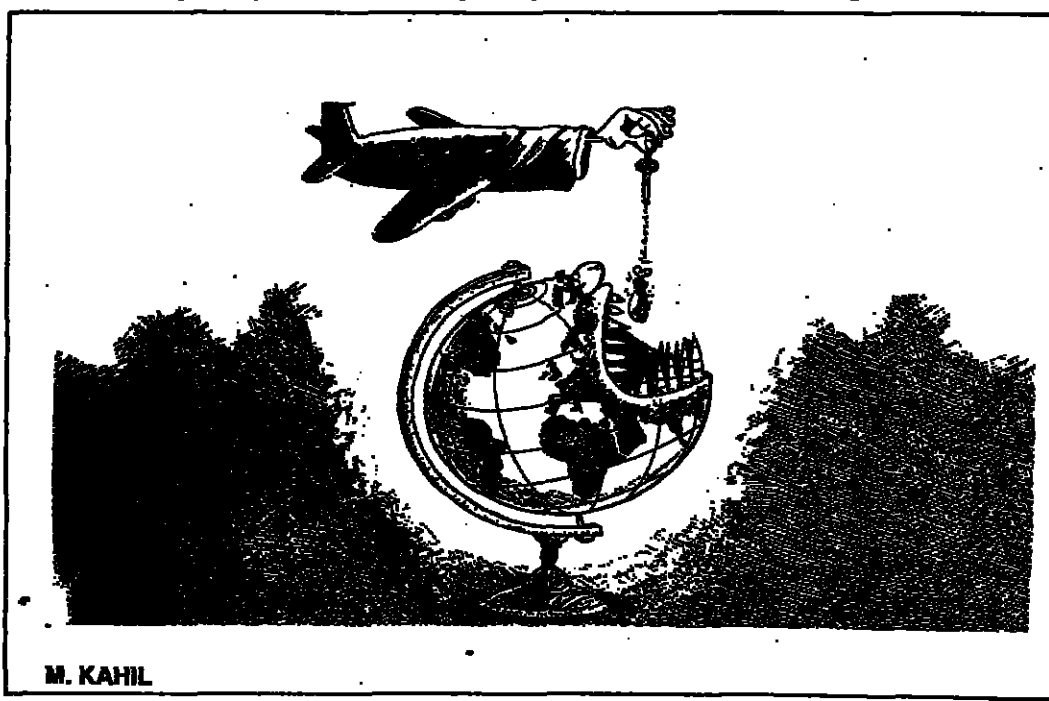
Mr. Yastrebensky claimed: "We take care to see that the regional balance is not upset." But that notion of the regional balance is at the root of the arms race, since each state tends to measure itself against the combined strength of several different

potential adversaries, and a state like Iraq, placed at the intersection of the Middle East with central and south Asia, may ever argue that it has to cope with threats from more than one region.

The U.K.'s Middle East order book of \$4bn in 1990-92 looks meagre by comparison, but not for want of trying. Touting British equipment in the Gulf is still one of the main responsibilities of British defence ministers, and Vickers has been careful not to bite the hand that feeds it by blaming the government for its failure to win the Kuwait contract.

France is in there too, with sales to Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Turkey and, of course, Saudi Arabia. And Chinese sales (including 72 F-7 aircraft to Iran in 1991) are supposed to be of particular concern to the U.S. Yet this did not stop Mr. Bush authorising the sale of 150 F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan last month, prompting China to withdraw from the P5 talks on arms control in the Middle East.

One glimmer of hope: The European Parliament, prompted by Saterworld, has called for an EC code of conduct on arms exports. It is true that under Article 223 of the Treaty of Rome, the EC cannot prevent any member state from taking "such measures as it considers necessary for the protection of its essential interests of its security which are connected with the production of or trade in arms." But at least member states could be asked why they think arms sales to the Middle East are necessary, whereas arms sales to Bosnia (which is actually engaged in a struggle for survival against aggression and "ethnic cleansing") are still banned — Financial Times.



## Why Japan is stuck with corrupt 'money politics'

By Eugene Moosa

Reuter

TOKYO — Why does Japan's political system always bow down to corruption and backroom deals? Pundits say the system merely mirrors the mass of voters who seek, and get, favours from the politicians they put in power.

Wednesday's resignation of Shin Kanemaru — master fund-raiser, maker of prime ministers and policies and choreographer of parliamentary business — underlines the limit of this wheedling-and-dealing style of politics, commentators said.

"It is true that this case showed that the system is nearing the end of its life span," said Professor Tadashi Iyasa of Ryukoku University, an expert on the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). "But there is nothing to replace it."

Mr. Kanemaru took responsibility for a money-and-mobster scandal that shook the govern-

ment to its foundations, quitting parliament and abdicating as head of the LDP's dominant faction.

As well as throwing the Kiichi Miyazawa government into turmoil, his departure signifies the end of an era where ultimate political power was wielded by a single faction boss.

Real power will now rest with various alliances of would-be successors to Mr. Kanemaru, Mr. Iyasa said. It is unclear who will eventually emerge as the new LDP linchpin, he added.

Unlike their western counterparts, the most important power base for an LDP leader is not in a mass voter following, or even patronage by various interest groups, but rests with the faction.

The conservative LDP, in unbroken power for 37 years, is actually an alliance of five factions of lawmakers, built on the traditional "oyabun-kobun" or

"boss-benchman" structure. Political prowess rests not with a boss's principles or programmes, but with how many faction members he has under him.

In the past 20 years, the dominant faction, meaning the one with the most lawmakers, was the group created by Japanese past-master of politicking, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, and taken over in the mid-1980s by Noboru Takeshita.

After Mr. Takeshita's resignation as prime minister over the 1988-1989 recruit "shares-for-favours" scandal, Mr. Kanemaru rose to be undisputed helmsman of the group.

Over the past four years, Mr. Kanemaru's backstage deals with opposition parties were an open secret. His was the decisive voice that could make or break prime ministers.

The faction, not the party, collects funds to cover costs of their

members' election campaigns, notorious for their extravagance. It is the faction membership card that matters when key posts in government and the party are up for grabs, not an individual politician's credibility.

Successive scandals drove premiers like Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Takeshita from their jobs but Japanese voters never tried to censure those at the root of the problem, Professor Iyasa said.

"Japanese voters always get angry at the money and the back-room deals but they never criticise faction politics, because, in the end, they are the ones that benefit most."

For many Japanese, LDP faction structures — which reach all the way down to prefectural, city and village assemblies — are the only thing that matters when it is time to decide who makes the most out of politically-expedient largesse.

Factionalism is so deep-rooted in Japan that even the dispirited opposition parties have resorted to the politicking that factionalism breeds, allowing the giant LDP to deploy their classic "divide and rule" policy.

Notably the socialists but other parties too have stuck to unrealistic post-World War II ideologies. Not that any politician has ever tried to tackle the problem at its source.

Toshiki Kaifu, another man Mr. Kanemaru hand-picked for premier, actually tried to go all the way with a plan to cleanse politics by replacing multiple-seat constituencies with single-member districts, on the model seen in Britain and other countries.

Since LDP candidates would not have to vie with each other, and the party would be sponsoring only one candidate in each district, that would do away with

the need for much of the lavish spending which is such a financial burden on the individual candidate. It should have helped lessen the influence of factions.

Mr. Kaifu also tried to get stricter laws enacted to punish violations of the near toothless political funds control law.

His proposals, for example, would have meant that Mr. Kanemaru, caught red-handed in this latest scandal, would have been fined 500 million yen (\$4 million) for taking a 500 million yen illegal donation, not the token 200,000 yen (\$1,600) he actually paid.

They would also have stripped Mr. Kanemaru of the right to retain or seek public office for five years.

But that was altogether too zealous for the canny old king-maker, so he pulled the rug from under Premier Kaifu and named Mr. Miyazawa, a pliant veteran faction chief, in his place.



## Defence lawyers quit Nafeer case

(Continued from page 1)

None of the three lawyers attended Sunday's session, which was boycotted by the entire Qarash defence team.

Speaking on behalf of eight lawyers representing Mr. Shbeilat, attorney Zuhair Abu Ragheb said: "Because of the unscheduled secret court session on Saturday, and where Mr. Bakr and Mr. Hammad withdrew from the case, we too reiterate Mr. Bakr's objections and announce our decision to leave the case."

Abdul Majeed Thneibat, whose law firm also represented Mr. Shbeilat, announced his withdrawal by registering in court that he was "surprised to hear this morning that the court yesterday held a surprise secret session without our knowledge or informing us."

Maj. Hijazi, talking to reporters after the session, insisted that "representative" lawyers were informed on Thursday of Saturday's session.

Judge Faouri, noting that Sheikh Qarash's lawyer Ahmad Abu Arkoub also had sent a notice of his team's withdrawal, accepted all motions and ruled that Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash had until Tuesday to appoint new defence counsels. In the event that the two defendants did not name anyone, then the court will appoint lawyers for them at government expense, the judge said.

According to Judge Faouri, the court was informed Thursday of witness "Yassin" who had "important information regarding this case."

"The (witness) came to this country especially for this case to, as he told the court, reveal the truth and to clear his conscience," said the judge. "It was the court's duty to hear and hold this legal session."

According to Maj. Hijazi, the witness had requested a secret testimony before the court because "he was afraid to reveal his identity." The prosecutor blamed the defence for "leaking the name of the witness to the press."

Deputy Abdul Karim Dughmi, a member of Mr. Shbeilat's original defence team, later told a press conference that his group decided to withdraw from the case in protest against "the court's handling of the case."

"We are not at all at ease with the way the case is being handled," he said.

Mr. Dughmi, a former minister and now deputy speaker of the House, told reporters at the Parliament building that the House had formed a special panel representing all blocs and independent deputies to follow up on the case of their colleagues "at all higher levels, including His Majesty the King, the prime minister and others."

"This is the proper role of the legislative authority in situations like this," Mr. Dughmi said, speaking in his capacity as deputy speaker.

Shifting to his role as a lawyer, Mr. Dughmi, who attended Sunday's court session, said the defence team was "awaiting the verdict of the Higher Court of Justice on the constitutionality of the State Security Court."

The case was filed by Mr. Bakr on behalf of the first defendant's wife, Rima Shbeilat, before the State Security Court, before the Al Nafeer trial on Sept. 20.

The plaintiff argues that the State Security Court had no constitutional basis and therefore it has no jurisdiction to try any cases.

Citing provisions in the Jordanian Constitution, Deputy Dughmi argued Sunday that the establishment of the State Security Court under a 1959 law was in contravention of the Constitution.

He said the Constitution stipulates three distinct categories of courts in Jordan — civil, religious and special — and that although the State Security Court could be under "special" category, "there is no constitutional provision for such a court with its distinct structure."

Mr. Dughmi said that all categories of courts were appointed by a special judicial council under the Constitution while the State Security Court was named by the prime minister under the 1959 law.

"The 1959 law is unconstitutional since there is no mention of such a category of law in the Constitution, and we have moved the Higher Court of Justice to rule on the issue," he said.

When the case was first filed at the Higher Court of Justice, a senior official was quoted as saying that provisions existed for setting up the State Security Court in cases of emergency situations.

Mr. Bakr challenged this assertion by saying that the "emergency situations" as referred to in the 1959 law no longer existed and therefore there is no basis for the establishment of the State Security Court.

Mr. Dughmi said that any verdict reached by the State Security Court in the Al Nafeer case be-

fore the Higher Court of Justice means that its ruling will not be binding.

"If the Higher Court of Justice finds that the State Security Court is unconstitutional, then there is no doubt that there will be a complete retrial of the case," he said adding that the defence team would return to represent Mr. Shbeilat in such an event.

Back at the State Security Court, Maj. Hijazi briefed reporters on Saturday's secret session.

He said "secret witness Yassin," whom he would identify further only as a "merchant who travels between Syria and Iran," testified in court to have "carried an amount of 300,000 deustchmarks (about \$200,000) from the Iranian leadership at the presidential palace to Mr. Shbeilat in Amman in April 1992."

The witness, whose credentials and documents were not inspected by the defence, also testified that he had carried two letters from Mr. Shbeilat to the Iranian leadership, according to Maj. Hijazi.

The charge-sheet accuses the defendants of taking funds from a foreign country to finance Al Nafeer, which allegedly was born out of a meeting of revolutionary groups held in Tehran in 1990.

Mr. Shbeilat denied knowing the witness at all when asked as he was escorted out of the courtroom. "No, no way," he said, vigorously shaking his head.

In response to the defence pull-out from the case, Maj. Hijazi said that he was not surprised since "the defence began preparing for a withdrawal with statements made in the press since last week."

He attributed the pullout to what he described as "the beginning of the (presenting) prosecution's evidence against (Mr.) Shbeilat."

The prosecutor also questioned why Sheikh Qarash's defence withdrew in protest against the secret session "when the testimony had nothing to do with their client."

In the protest against the Shbeilat trial, around 100 men who had arrived in Amman from the south of the country, where the deputy originally comes from, chanted slogans in support of Mr. Shbeilat as he was driven out of the court gates in a police car, which was followed by a blue armoured vehicle.

The police car carrying Mr. Shbeilat and four blue-clad policemen had to stop briefly as men threw themselves at the moving vehicle and banged on its sides with their hands. Security officers immediately pulled back the angry men who chanted "we will sacrifice our souls and blood for Abu Fahren (Mr. Shbeilat)."

Shouting "Allahu Akbar," the crowd staged a small demonstration in the street, some of them waving their flags (headband that holds the keffiyeh) in the air.

Before getting into waiting cars to regroup at Mr. Shbeilat's parliamentary office, some of them said they were "depending on His Majesty King Hussein's sense of justice to solve this problem" one man, who identified himself only as Abu Zein, said a group of Shbeilat supporters from the south had requested a meeting with the King.

The demonstrators, who described themselves as "representatives of the thousands of supporters of 'Abu Fahren' from Tafilah and Ma'an," also said they supported the defence decision to withdraw from the trial.

Later, about 200 supporters gathered at Mr. Shbeilat's office to hold a meeting in support of the deputy.

Addressing the gathering pan-Arab political activist Bahjat Abu Gharbiyeh said the meeting was aimed at "defending democracy" and called on Mr. Shbeilat's constituents to support the deputy.

He read out a one-and-a-half page memorandum describing the case of Mr. Shbeilat as "a case of freedom, democracy, justice, and real stability and security," and urged the participants of the meeting to sign the document.

Also distributed at the meeting was another petition calling for the release of Mr. Shbeilat. Prominent among the signatories were Parliament members, political activists from leftist and Islamic groups, including some Muslim Brotherhood leaders, and union representatives.

## U.N. team

(Continued from page 1)

"The regime believes that a new U.S. administration minus Bush will be far more understanding and flexible," said an Asian diplomat in the Iraqi capital, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It may be wishful thinking, but this is what the regime believes."

## Cairo calm after quake protests

(Continued from page 1)

The government accused "extremist elements" — by which it often means Muslim fundamentalists — of trying to incite riots after the quake.

Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif said the cabinet held a meeting Saturday and discussed "the fact that some extremist elements are trying to exploit the situation and to incite the citizens to riot."

"Such attempts will be dealt with firmly and decisively," he told Egyptian radio. "These elements are trying to damage the splendid stand taken by the Egyptian people."

Prime Minister Atef Sedki said Saturday that all the homeless would be off the streets within three or four days.

But some people are refusing temporary accommodation in youth centres and tents and are demanding immediate re-housing in apartments in new satellite

towns outside Cairo. Others accused government officials of neglecting them because they were poor.

"Our souls have no price," said Siham Mohammad Abdul Ghafar. "No-one cares what happens to us."

Mr. Mubarak said Egypt was doing more for quake victims than the United States had done for victims of a hurricane in August.

"The sort of compensation and rehousing happening in Egypt now did not take place even in the United States where the victims of the Florida hurricane were only offered bank guarantees," Mr. Mubarak added.

The government had rehoused 2,000 families by Friday in a satellite area in a desert city outside Cairo. But thousands more people are still camping out in parks, tents and mosques too frightened to sleep in damaged slum buildings.

## Ashrawi regrets attacks on Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rabin attributed the violence to the Palestinians' frustration with Israel's refusal, at this stage, to negotiate their final political status.

Israel entered the talks a year ago on the understanding that they would aim only for an interim solution entailing limited Palestinian self-government.

He said he expected the Palestinians to come to terms with the Israeli position during the next round of talks.

Also, Mr. Rabin said, the Palestinians feared being left behind by progress in the Israeli-

Syrian talks.

"There was a feeling that something was beginning to move on the Syrian side" and that the Palestinians had "lost the world's attention. The world's expectations were more in the Syrian context," he said.

Mr. Rabin has told Israeli villagers to arm themselves.

Mr. Rabin said farmers living close to the West Bank border, where the killings occurred, must organise, help the police and army to organise, be armed, be more alert and ready to react."

## Hassan II hopes to mediate rifts

(Continued from page 1)

The king has long had close and cordial links with conservative Arab heads of state. His ties with Syria have improved after several rifts.

He has not made an extensive tour of the area since 1982, a year after ascending the throne, when he visited Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Jordan and Tunisia, preferring instead to stage a series of Arab summits in Moroccan cities.

The conservative Rabat daily Al Maghrib said in an editorial the king's tour would be the first at a high level since the Gulf war and "no-one is better placed to

cleanse the Arab climate and give new impetus to the Arab-Israeli negotiations."

A Palestine Liberation Organisation source said the king would probably propose the convening of an Arab summit "which is long overdue to settle Arab differences and reestablish unity."

Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali went to Saudi Arabia and Qatar earlier this month, apparently in an attempt to defuse their territorial dispute. He also conferred with Mr. Assad in Damascus.

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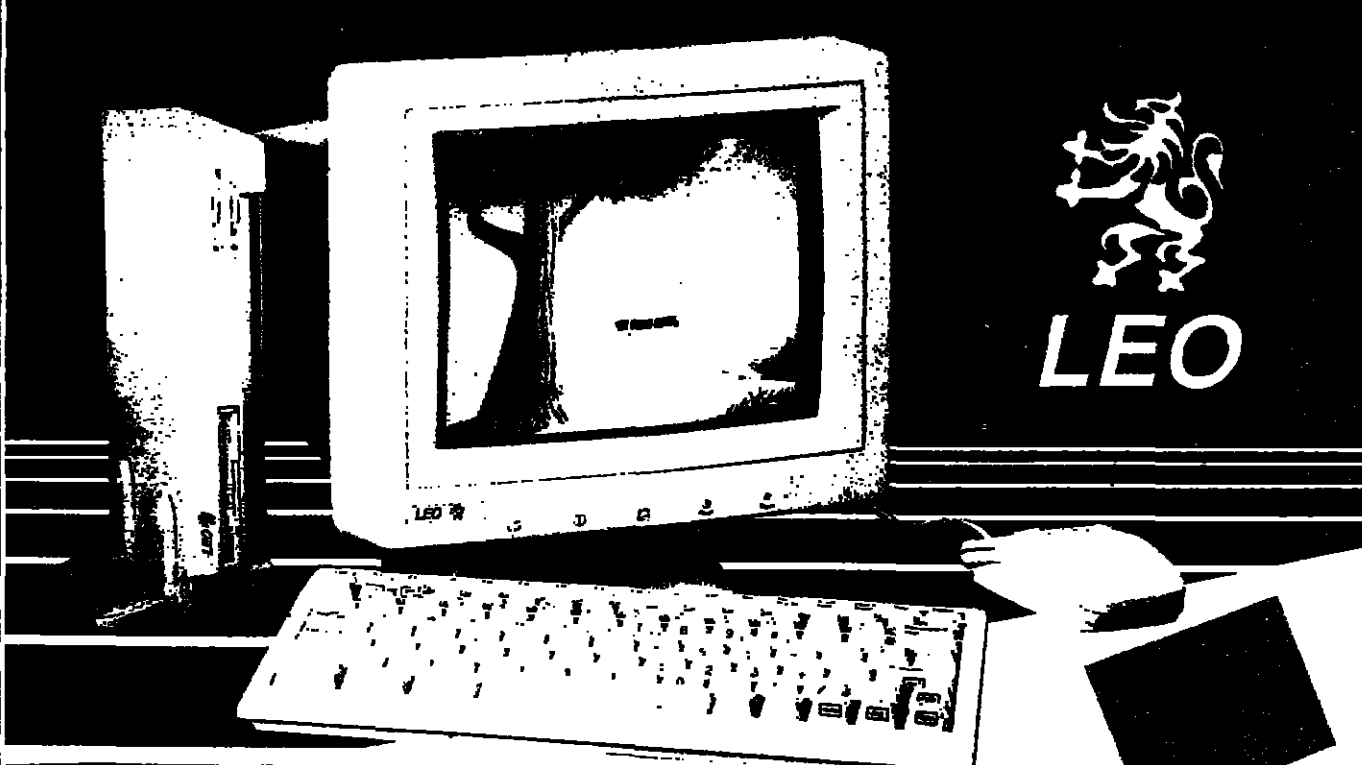
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## Deportivo topple Barcelona to stay top

MADRID (Agencies) — Champions Barcelona crashed 1-0, and had Dutch coach Johan Cruyff hooked, as surprise leaders Deportivo Coruna scored another upset in the Spanish Soccer League Saturday.

Second-placed Barcelona's unbeaten record this season came to an end under constant bombardment from Deportivo, leaving an unsmiling Cruyff to comment: "It was a great match."

The Dutchman, cautioned for protesting from the coach's bench, was among seven bookings — three for home team Deportivo and four for Barcelona — as the tension mounted.

Deportivo, who have surged to the top of the league after finishing 17th last season, beat Real Madrid two weeks ago. Barcelona looked disoriented in the first 10 minutes as Deportivo's Brazilian Jose Beбето and Claudio Barragan led a two-pronged attack through their leaky defense.

Deportivo piled on the pressure but failed to turn early chances into goals. The champions in turn wasted their first real chance, a one-on-one between Aitor Beguiristain and Deportivo keeper Francisco Liano, in the 28th minute.

Deportivo further lifted the tempo in the second half until

Bebeto, their key marksman, finally managed to give Barcelona defender Albert Ferrer the slip.

With a deft change of direction, he pushed the ball past keeper Andoni Zubizarreta for a 73rd minute winner.

### Nantes upset Marseille

Jafet N'doram from Chad headed a first half goal to give the youthful Nantes side a 1-0 victory over champions Marseille Saturday and thrust them to the top of the French League.

## EUROPEAN SOCCER

Nantes are now one point clear of former leaders Paris St. Germain, who were held to a 1-1 draw by Kily Lens. Cameroon marksman Francois Omam-Biyik put the club from northern France on top in the 75th minute before Francois Calderaro scored the equalizer three minutes later.

Paris, who remain the only unbeaten side of the 20-strong field, are three points ahead of main rivals Marseille and Monaco. The team from the principality lifted a 2-1 away victory at Sochaux thanks to two goals by former Paris striker Christian Perez.

Etienne Mendy also scored twice to give St. Etienne a 2-1 victory over Bordeaux in a clash between the two sides who dominated French soccer in the 1970s and 1980s respectively.

At the other end of the table, Toulon fell 1-0 at Lille to stay bottom with a meagre six points out of 11 matches.

### Norwich head English Premier League

Norwich goalkeeper Bryan Gunn put personal tragedy aside Saturday to help his team back to

minute header from Chris Sutton gave the home team a comfortable lead before QPR's Bradley Allen slotted a goal past Gunn in the 75th minute.

Gunn had already saved one attempt from Dennis Bailey, and had to make two more in the final minutes as QPR pressed home its attack.

The goalkeeper's efforts allowed Norwich to hold out for the victory. The club must now wait until Monday to know whether it will retain its two point lead.

Third placed Coventry, with the opportunity to creep past Blackburn into second, managed a 1-1 tie at Everton to retain an unbeaten away record.

Peter Beagrie gave Everton the lead in the 28th minute before Coventry's Peter Ndlovu ran the length of the ground to score off a deflection in the 44th minute.

In other premier league games Saturday, Nottingham Forest lost to Arsenal 1-0 to remain at the bottom of the league table after 12 rounds, while Chelsea defeated Ipswich 2-1.

Crystal Palace played a scoreless tie with Manchester City, champion Leeds overcame Sheffield United 3-1, Sheffield Wednesday hosted Oldham for a 2-1 victory.

A penalty goal in the second half to Mark Bowen and a 64th

## Ivan Lendl wins 92nd career title

TOKYO (Agencies) — Ivan Lendl ended a 14-month championship drought Sunday, bouncing back from a 2-5 first set deficit for a 7-6 (9-7), 6-4 victory over hot-serving Swede Henrik Holm in the \$1.1 million Seiko Super Tennis.

Holm slammed in 18 service aces but had nine double faults. He let two set points slip away in the first set's eighth game.

Lendl, a native of Czechoslovakia, received \$135,000 for his first championship since becoming an American citizen in July. The 24-year-old Holm, who beat the third, sixth and eighth seeds on his way to the final, received \$72,600.

"It's nice to win. It was a tough game," said Lendl, at 32 the oldest player in the tournament after winning his 92nd career title. He last won a tournament in August 1991 in Long Island, but now has won the Seiko Super four times.

"He (Holm) served very well so it was important to get the ball back preferably low to put pressure on him," said Lendl, who held the top world ranking in men's tennis in 1985, 1986, 1987

and 1989 but since has slipped to ninth.

Holm said, "I was not disappointed. ...It's good experience for me as I played very good baseline rallies against one of the best baseline players in the world."

Holm, whose world ranking has shot up to 35th from 129th at the start of this year, broke service at love in the sixth game as Lendl hit a lob and a passing shot wide.

But he couldn't hold a 40-15 lead at 5-2. Lendl held service and broke back in the ninth game.

En route to the final, Lendl beat American Todd Martin 7-5, 2-6, 7-5, 11th-seeded Wally Masur of Australia 6-7 (4-7), 6-4 (7-4), fourth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia 6-3, 6-4, and second-seeded Michael Chang of the United States 6-3, 6-4.

Holm defeated American Bryan Shelton 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, third-seeded Boris Becker of Germany 6-1, 6-2, sixth-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa 7-6, (7-5), 6-2, and eighth-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia 7-5, 6-2.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Moscow Spartak win Russian championship

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow Spartak beat Lokomotiv 4-1 Saturday to clinch the Russian Soccer Championship two weeks before the end of the league season. The championship, being played for the first time since 1913, was revived after former Soviet republics failed to agree on forming a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) league.

### Rosewall-Gullikson rout Laver-Lloyd

PONTE VEDRA, Florida (AP) — Ken Rosewall of Australia and American Tom Gullikson needed only 53 minutes to rout Rod Laver and John Lloyd 6-1, 6-2, winning the \$100,000 ATP Senior Tour Tennis Championship. "They just played together very well at the beginning and never let us get into the match," said the 54-year-old Laver, a two-time Grand Slam champion. Rosewall, the oldest player in the tournament at 58, and Gullikson, 41, playing his first ATP tour senior event, won the last five games of the opening set with the loss of only three points.

### Americans rally, avenge Olympic loss

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States rallied from a 10-6 deficit in the fourth game and defeated Japan, 3-1, in the 1992 USA-Japan volleyball summit at Madison Square Garden. This was a rematch of the controversial meeting in Barcelona, when the U.S. had its victory over Japan overturned on a technicality. The United States, led by Olympian Bob Samuelson, started the match by blowing a 10-0 lead in the first game and losing, 16-14. The United States went on to win the last three games, 15-8, 15-3 and 16-14. The United States, which went on to win the bronze medal in Barcelona, leads the series 3-1 with the final stop scheduled for Tuesday in St. Louis.

### Fischer wins chess game, leads 8-4

BELGRADE (R) — Bobby Fischer, America's best-known and most unpredictable chess player, won again against Boris Spassky late Saturday night, and now leads their \$5 million replay series eight games to four. Experts watching the match said the end game, unlike most of the mediocre play between the two former chess giants, was one for the textbooks. The defeat was a bitter blow to Spassky, who had hauled back his first game in three weeks Friday. Sunday's game, their 22nd, will show whether the 55-year-old former world champion, now based in Paris, has the psychological strength to fight back. Fischer took the world title from Spassky in Reykjavik in 1972.

## Andretti wins pole

MONTEREY, California (AP) — Michael Andretti did just what he had to do, taking the pole position for the Monterey Grand Prix with one hot lap and making it tougher for Bobby Rahal to outrun him for the IndyCar Championship.

His seventh pole of the year and fourth in a row gave Andretti one more championship point and cut Rahal's lead to 11 going into the season finale at Laguna Seca Raceway.

To take the pole, Andretti had to go faster than he did in the opening round of qualifying, despite hotter temperatures and a slower track surface.

The defending race and series champion turned the fast lap of 111.967 mph (180.155 kph) just 8 1/2 minutes into the 30-minute session, then had to wait im-

patiently to see if provisional pole winner Paul Tracy or anyone else could do better.

Tracy, who set a track record Friday at 111.856 mph (179.976 kph), was unable to better that lap Saturday, but held onto second, followed by teammate Emerson Fittipaldi at 111.396 mph (179.236 kph), fellow Canadian Scott Goodyear 111.333 mph (179.135 kph) and Mario Andretti at 110.481 (177.764 kph).

Rahal, sixth after Friday's qualifying, held that spot with a Saturday lap of 110.096 mph (177.145 kph). John Andretti was next at 109.961 mph (176.927 kph), while Al Unser Jr. — the only other driver with a chance at the series title fell one spot to eighth at 109.912 mph (176.848 kph).

## Navratilova celebrates birthday in style

FILDERSTADT, Germany (R) — Martina Navratilova celebrated her 36th birthday Sunday with a 7-6 (6-3) victory over Gabriela Sabatini in the final of the \$350,000 Filderstadt Women's Tennis Tournament.

Asked about the crowd's support for her, the American quipped: "Maybe the people are sorry for an older woman."

va never looked back.

"After the defeat in Zurich against Steffi Graf last Sunday, I was feeling pretty bad," Navratilova said. "But I've been feeling better and better."

Asked about the crowd's support for her, the American quipped: "Maybe the people are sorry for an older woman."

## Rodrigo ready to claim world title

LONDON (R) — Brilliant Rodrigo De Triano, the new champion of Europe, is ready to take on horse racing's best in the world at the Breeders' Cup in Florida October 31.

ter have his way and run the colt for the first time on dirt in the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic, the world's richest horse race.

One big London bookmaker makes Rodrigo De Triano 3-1 favorite for the Classic, a race that no European-trained horse has ever won.

Trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam is ready to let owner Robert Sang-

## JORDAN TIMES

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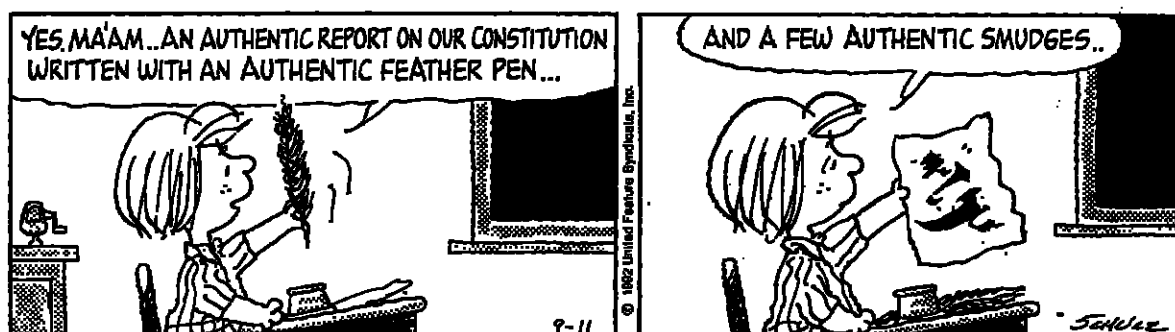
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## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 19, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** If you are critical of friends, you find that you lose favour with them, that will be difficult to regain later on. Social events have a lot of appeal at present unless you are forced to join with those you don't really care for.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Look for some benefit from a charmer at a distance early, then you would be wise to stick to whatever private arrangements you have made before this.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Some condition connected with your work is made easier in the morning but then you later find that obligations you hadn't anticipated take too much of your time.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) An early invitation from an outside associate early should be accepted but later you have some worldly problem requiring much care in solving.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Consider now what new ideas or course of action you wish to put in motion and make a special point to await gaining well rounded data before so doing.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Accept some coming pleasure arrangements after breakfast, then make sure you are exact and particular in keeping whatever promises you have made.

**VRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Get something pleasant done for your family in the morning then

you will be in a position to get off with a critical associate and work out better rapport.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Think about the various messages you want to get out and do them in the morning while later take it easy in fixing up your surroundings as problems could arise.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A surprise practical matter pleases you early so get it done quickly after which you will have to solve some blockage where your talent is concerned.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You get up with a feeling of well being and inspired to a fine course of action so pursue but you find home conditions require much focus.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You can early gain some data you had not expected so use it to your advantage, then you will be able to delve into communications perplexing to you.

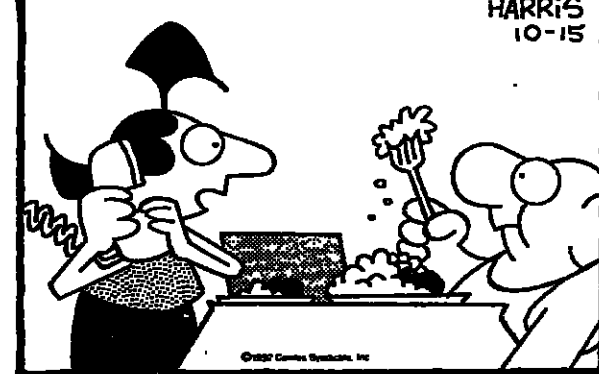
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A long time older friend brings some benefit to you early then you will find it advisable to use much caution in any financial commitments.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Do something fascinating in the outside world early then you will find that you will be so preoccupied with your personal needs you don't have time for other things.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 10-15



"It's the neighbors. They can't hear their TV because you're chewing too loud."

## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RATAO

WHISS

CAFEED

HISRAP

Answer here: A

Saturday's Jumble: USURP BARON CIPHER WALRUS

Answer: That grouch is never fully dressed in the morning until he puts on this—HIS SCOWL

(Answers tomorrow)

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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# A lonely prisoner of Zion

By Sarah Helm

NATAN SHARANSKY's squat figure recoils as he describes how he was first challenged to take up the Palestinian cause. It was in 1986, when he had just arrived in Israel after nine years in a Soviet labour camp, that he was asked by two Palestinians to support the case of Akram Haniyeh, a Palestinian newspaper editor who had been deported. One of his supplicants, Faisal Hussein, was a leading West Bank PLO supporter. When Mr. Sharansky found out, he rejected their pleas, condemning the PLO as a "band of cut-throats."

Mr. Sharansky still clings to this view. "It didn't take me long to realise that the analogy between their cause and ours was dangerous and false," he says. Nor is he a lone voice among those other Prisoners of Zion (as they were known to Jews throughout the world), who escaped Soviet persecution.

Most of Israel's erstwhile refuseniks reject calls that they take up the banner of universal human rights and, in particular, the rights of Palestinians. Yosef Mendeleovich helped to organise the 1971 Leningrad plane-hijack plot, which first focused world attention on the Soviet Jews' oppression. Ida Nudel, the refusenik's so-called "angel of mercy," ran a support network in Moscow for fellow Jews, before she was exiled to Siberia. Both are even more emphatic than Sharansky in rejecting the Palestinian analogy.

Mr. Mendeleovich has demanded the death sentence for

Palestinian "terrorists." Ms. Nudel describes the infatigable leaders as "gangsters" whose only wish is to send the Jews back to Auschwitz.

The refuseniks' stand was greeted with intense disappointment by the Palestinians. Faisal Hussein, who now directs the Palestinian delegation at the peace talks, described Mr. Sharansky as a "great man turned small." Riyad Malki, a West Bank leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, talks of their "treason to the principles they fought for."

Today, the refuseniks, who used to be Israel's greatest heroes, are seen as fringe figures in their own country. Their opinions are ignored by most Israelis; they are viewed as irrelevant by the post-Soviet immigrant wave, and are openly criticised by Israeli liberals. Many, including Ms. Nudel and Mr. Mendeleovich, supported extreme right-wing parties in the June election, and protested against the Madrid peace conference last year.

Mr. Sharansky, 44, who warned for years of Mikhail Gorbachev's "tricks," has cautioned against hasty rapprochement with the Arabs. His wife, Avital, who did so much to promote his cause in the West during his imprisonment, has become ultra-religious (she is associated with the Gush Emunim movement, which believes in Israel's divine right to settle on the West Bank and Gaza).

Mr. Sharansky attempted to launch his own single-issue party before the election to promote the Russian immigrants' cause.

His efforts flopped through lack of support, not least from fellow refuseniks who resent his high profile.

The problem for Mr. Sharansky, Mr. Mendeleovich and Ms. Nudel, who are obsessed with the cause of Jewish immigration, is that the old Soviet enemy has gone. Immigration is receding as an issue, and some Russian Jews are even booking plane tickets back to their homeland. Mr. Sharansky, in his increasingly bitter column in Israel's English-language magazine, the Jerusalem Report, has accused the government of betraying Russian immigrants and the cause of Zionism.

It is perhaps not surprising that the Prisoners of Zion should be afflicted with a siege mentality. Most lost families in the Holocaust and, however they were portrayed in the West, they were always Zionists' first, human rights campaigners second.

"The victim is often the last to see what is happening around him," says Shlomo Avineri, a Soviet scholar and political scientist at Hebrew University. "They are the last cold war warriors. They have the mind-set of ethnicist ideologues, failing to take up any symbolic role on behalf of others who have suffered. Worse, they have traded on their reputations, spending more time on the international lecture circuit than at home."

The refuseniks respond to questions about the Palestinian issue by arguing that Israel's Arab neighbours are still intent on the Jewish state's annihilation. They say that Israel's right to

exist is a supreme "human" right that overrides the individual rights of Palestinians. Inverting the old Bolshevik argument, they say that the instruments the state uses to preserve its existence are therefore justified. In any event, Israel is a democracy and the Palestinians have judicial means of redress, which they, as refuseniks, were denied. They appear blind to the realities of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

"The Arabs seek destruction of Israel, which would mean a new holocaust for Jewish people," Mr. Sharansky says. "This would be such a fundamental human rights violation that to prevent it, other people have to pay a price. In the Soviet Union we had no democratic institutions through which to fight. Israel is a country that has them all. Human rights violations under a totalitarian regime cannot be compared with those in a democracy."

Mr. Sharansky once visited an Israeli jail to see for himself whether the treatment of Palestinian prisoners warranted his intervention. "There were some things that reminded me of the physical environment of the Soviet jails. But there were none of the same mechanisms here: mechanisms to change the way you think." And he saw no evidence of torture.

"In the Soviet Union you were arrested just for expressing your views," he says. "The whole system there was geared to make you change your mind. The amount of food you received; the amount of fresh air; the number of visits." In Israel, a terrorist

receives the same food as someone who takes a bribe.

Mr. Sharansky also looked into the system of deportation, but the Israeli authorities allowed him to see the files, and he was satisfied that the cases were justified.

His argument is echoed by Mr. Mendeleovich and Ms. Ida Nudel. "We feel threatened all the time," Mr. Mendeleovich says. "The idea that Israel is giving up land and may move towards establishing a Palestinian state in the heart of Israel fills us with horror. All kinds of Arab countries are a threat to our existence here. It is a struggle for life and death."

For a man who for so many years was openly prepared to die for his cause and who makes nothing of his own past sufferings, Mr. Mendeleovich's zealotry is laced with a surprising amount of fear. Asked what he would say to a Palestinian who complained that he had lost his land to a Jew, he replies: "I would never talk to such a person. He would kill me."

The very mention of the Palestinian cause brings scorn from Ms. Nudel, a slight, generally soft-spoken woman. "There is no comparison between our struggle and their terrorism," she insists, rising up, proud, and angry. "I belong to a great, civilised and highly courageous movement. I never used a curse or threw a stone. I behaved as an absolutely civilised human being. They send their children forward to fight the Israeli army to gain sympathy. I hate them for that."

Ms. Nudel, like the other refuseniks, readily concedes that

there was a Zionist struggle. She is cynical about the support she received from the West.

"Human rights were the golden key used by the United States and other governments to prise open the Soviet Union and begin to attack the communists," she says. "We were used as the soldiers in

their fight. Human rights were just nice words. Words words words. If America had really cared about us, I wouldn't have been in jail 16 years."

In his inaugural address as Israel's new Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin said: "Walls of enmity have fallen. No longer are we

necessarily a people that dwells alone, and no longer is it true that the whole world is against us." Such sentiments are treated with derision by the refuseniks. Their increasing isolation shows, not for the first time in history, that victims are often the last to accept change — The Independent.

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## French foreign ministry says Rushdie welcome

PARIS (agencies) — Salman Rushdie, the British novelist condemned to death in 1989 by Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for his "Satanic Verses," is welcome in France, the foreign ministry said Friday, disputing reports he had thrice been turned down.

Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said that as a European Community (EC) citizen free to circulate, no French consulate had received requests for his entry.

Mr. Bernard's statement came following the publication in the national daily Le Figaro of an open letter by French writer Bernard-Henri Levy, demanding an explanation for the reported refusals.

Mr. Levy wrote that he learned Mr. Rushdie had been denied permission to enter France on three different occasions. The two met earlier this week in Finland at a conference sponsored by the Scandinavian Council.

"I have been to Norway, to the United States, to Denmark and to Spain. But there is another European country where I have wanted to go for several months," Mr. Levy quoted Mr. Rushdie as telling the conference of Scandinavian deputies. "Three times I have let it be known; three times I have been denied permission and this country is France."

One of France's most outspoken intellectuals, Mr. Levy

called on Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to clarify the official position on Mr. Rushdie.

"It would be unforgivable, an image of France closing its doors to a writer whose only crime is to have committed a beautiful, very beautiful book which has displeased book-burners," Mr. Levy wrote.

Mr. Levy said that if France were to reject Mr. Rushdie again, it would be either "ridiculous" or "odious."

"No-one can ignore the fact that, in reality, we have welcomed people who are equally cumbersome and you'll agree, less respectable than Salman Rushdie," he wrote.

Mr. Bernard admitted Mr. Rushdie had indicated his wish to make a private visit to France during the Gulf war, but that "recommendations of prudence" were made for "his own safety."

"It is obvious that Salman Rushdie will be welcome in France and would be protected," Mr. Bernard said. "As a member of the European Community, he can circulate freely at will."

Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding since the "fatwa" declared by Ayatollah Khomeini in February 1989, making only rare public appearances.

He has visited the United States, Denmark, Norway, Spain and Finland this year.

Mr. Levy said it would be shameful for France to shy from a risk that smaller countries had taken.

## Arabs endorse seventh round of talks

(Continued from page 1)

meeting, however, indicated that the gathering failed to resolve all differences between Syria and the Palestinians.

The sources, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the Palestinians proposed three principles according to which bilateral talks with Israel should proceed. First, the source said, the Palestinians said no Arab party should harbour any fears about progress made on any track of the negotiations with Israel. Second, in the case that any party makes "real progress" on its own track, it should discuss progress with Arab parties and win their approval of it, and third, the real progress that should be taken into consideration is progress on the Palestinian question because it is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and for geopolitical reasons.

The source said that the Syrian side to the meeting said Syria was "not willing to sit and wait for years until the Palestinians make progress on the talks."

The source said that the Palestinian delegation told the conference that a comprehensive solution means that no Arab party enters into a security agreement with Israel before solving the Palestinian problem and consulting with other Arab parties.

According to the source, the Palestinian delegation said that Arab parties to talks with Israel should play a complementary role and do not impede progress on any track of the talks but stressed that bilateral solutions should be reached only after consultation

and coordination among Arab parties. Israel, the source quoted the Palestinian delegation as saying, "could accept a border settlement on any front except the Palestinian one" and refuses to make any concession that will lead to Palestinian self-determination.

The source said the Syrian response indicated that Syria was expecting progress in its separate talks with Israel.

In comments on Saturday, Mr. Sharaa ruled out the possibility of signing a separate peace treaty with Israel saying Damascus continues to seek a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Total peace requires total (Israeli) withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories," Mr. Sharaa said upon arrival in Amman. "We are talking about a comprehensive settlement, not unilateral deals," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, expressed hope that Israel would come to the seventh round of negotiations with new proposals and ideas that would push the peace process forward.

Speaking to reporters before leaving for Washington Sunday, Dr. Majali said that there is no change in the Jordanian position "and we wait for the other side to show what they mean by peace."

Dr. Majali said he did not expect the outcome of American presidential elections to negatively affect the peace process because, he said, "the peace process is an institution, has a strategy and is not based on individuals."



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## Getting a slant on the daily news

By Herb Keimon

SOME say we live in radio news-land.

From the first high-pitched news beeps that wake us in the morning, to the final ticker-tape sounding jingle that introduces the last news flash at night, you can listen to the radio and hear non-stop prattle about the day's events.

A survey of the radio listings produces a dizzying number of current-event format shows, featuring smooth-voiced journalists who regularly talk to scores of Members of Knesset, ministers and academics about every conceivable topic. The issues are analysed, dissected and analysed again. In this compact society, where newsmakers are very accessible, it seems every angle is discussed, every central player consulted.

But not everyone has such a sanguine view.

In the administrative offices of Channel 7 in Beit El, the moving forces behind the unofficial radio voice of the settlement movement have been talking for months, gay years, about what they perceive as crater-sized gaps in Israel Radio's news and analysis.

"When the state was created," said Ya'acov (Ketzele) Katz, founder of Channel 7, "the radio was in the service of the Jewish people. But now it seems that it is against the country, tries to weaken it. Both Israel Radio and Army Radio have a Meretz world view. Everyone knows it."

And it is this world view that the new news department at Channel 7, headed by Hagai Segal — author, journalist, satirist and former member of the Jewish underground who served time for his part in the 1980 bombing attack on the mayors of Ramallah and Al Bireh — is trying to counter. Last month Channel 7 launched a 45-minute news magazine at 1 p.m., and a five-minute news bulletin at 10 a.m.

The news magazine is called for the Time Being. Its slogan: "All the important news, all the burning questions."

For the last few weeks, all the "important news" and "burning questions" on Channel 7 have

been similar to the news and questions given prominence on Israel Radio: Shulamit Aloni, the Golan Heights, the El Al cargo plane tragedy.

But unwitting listeners who happen to stumble upon the station at 1 o'clock will easily be able to tell that it is not the regular news shows. For starters, temperatures for "Shechem, Ariel and Samaria" are given.

Also, the programme is sandwiched between ads with klezmer music background for places like Bnei Brak wig shops, religious book stores and the Poalei Agudat Yisrael Bank — not usual advertisement fare preceding radio news-shows.

And then there are the news items themselves. On Sunday, Channel 7 gave a great deal of attention to a Tsomet claim about an alleged agreement with Syria whereby Israel has already agreed to give back 60 per cent of the Golan, and will lease the rest from Syria for 90 years. The item got very little play in the mainstream press.

Another item heard last week on Channel 7 that reveals where the station is coming from: "The settlement freeze in Judea, Samaria and Gaza doesn't hurt only the settlers, but also Arabs in the areas. An East Jerusalem Research Institute said there has been a decrease in the number of Arabs working in the settlements, from 26,000 in June to 18,000 in August."

The personalities interviewed on the show, however, are similar to those heard on the other stations: Ori Orr, Ze'ev Hammer, Dedi Zucker, Amos Oz, Moshe Peled. According to Segal, only Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer has refused to be interviewed on Channel 7.

As for objectivity, Mr. Katz — who for the last two years was a key adviser to former housing minister Ariel Sharon on settlement construction — said this is not one of the prime concerns of the station.

"We see Channel 7 as an educational tool," Mr. Katz said. "We have a message. I admit, when it comes to Eretz Yisrael we are not objective. But there is no

such thing as objectivity. We have an opinion. The hutzpa of Israel Radio is that they claim to be objective. We don't make that claim."

According to Mr. Segal, "there is no such thing as objective journalism. But there is fair journalism. That's what we are aiming for. Every issue has two sides; we will bring out the other side as well."

In showing the other side, Mr. Segal said that the idea is to ask questions that he claims aren't asked on the regular news shows. For instance, during an interview with Labour's Ori Orr, Channel 7 asked why Israel is making good-will gestures to the Palestinians without getting anything in return.

Mr. Segal was particularly proud of this question. "These are the types of questions that should be asked, but too often are not. We want people to start thinking along these lines," he said.

The terminology used on the radio can be described as Eretz Yisrael politically correct. Channel 7 doesn't say "territories" or "West Bank," only "Judea, Samaria and Gaza." Also, all references to the PLO are prefaced by the word "terrorist," and "PLO leaders" are called "terrorist leaders."

Terminology defines how we look at things, Mr. Segal said, so if the terminology can be changed, perhaps the way people look at things can change as well. But he has no illusions of immediate results.

"This type of fruit can only be harvested in 20 years. We're not out to stop autonomy. We didn't set up the news department to change anything on the ground now. But if you want to influence, you have to start somewhere."

The impetus for the start of the news, according to Mr. Katz, was not the debate over autonomy, or even the election results, but rather the Gulf war, when the country, including Channel 7 listeners, became addicted to radio news. People wanted news, so the station obliged.

The overwhelming bulk of the 18 hours broadcast each day re-

mains, however, what could be called "squeaky clean" fare. This includes an abundance of wholesome Hebrew music, much of it religious, and a heavy dose of messages from various rabbis, politicians and academics that stress the importance of "the land of Israel, the people of Israel, and the Torah of Israel."

The station, funded in large part by supporters abroad and under the auspices of the Beit El Yeshiva, has strict guidelines for what may and may not be broadcast. Among the negative commandments: no advertisements for nonkosher restaurants, no German products advertised, no foreign-language songs, no risqué words. The final arbiter is Rabbi Zalman Melamed, head of the Beit El Yeshiva.

The station is unlicensed and thus is known, like Abie Nathan's Voice of Peace radio station, as a "pirate station." Since they are broadcast from ships outside the territorial waters of Israel, they cannot be punished.

With the news programme, the pirate station is charting new waters. And, from a technical point of view, the waters are often choppy.

Technical difficulties are frequent during the broadcasts, because the news shows are taped in Beit El, transmitted by cellular phone line to the ship, and then beamed to the rest of the country. If the technician in Beit El can't get a cellular phone line — which is often the case — the interviews are suddenly cut off.

But these problems can be overcome, and Mr. Segal said he hopes to eventually expand and broadcast news every two hours. The eventual goal, he said, is to reach a point where one can listen to Channel 7 — and just Channel 7 — to find out what is happening.

Mr. Segal said he doesn't want the news to become a type of community bulletin board for the settlements. "I don't just want to broadcast news for settlers, or report every stoning or petrol bomb incident," he said. "This would not be of interest to the listener in Kiryat Ata, and ultimately that's the person we hope will tune in" — The Jerusalem Post.

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## Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 12- October 16, 1992)

**AMMAN** — As the timing of the narrowing of the dollar/mark yield gap became a mystery again last week, interest rate considerations continued to hold the market's attention. The dollar, hence, slid gradually, but rebounded sharply at the end of the week on temporary safe-haven demand. At the end of the week, the U.S. currency was 0.5 per cent higher against the mark, but 0.5 per cent lower against the yen. The British pound, on the other hand, ended 2.6 per cent lower against the dollar and three per cent lower against the yen.

The Federal Reserve Chairman disappointed market participants by emphasizing that the decision to lower interest rates was completely independent from U.S. election considerations. His statement, over the weekend, implied that a further interest rate cut still could not be ruled out.

The dollar thus retreated gradually over the first three days of the week, as traders cautiously adjusted their dollar positions. Speculation over the near term direction of the dollar and the mark's interest rates, became even more muddled Wednesday. On the one hand, market participants interpreted information, contained in the Bundesbank's monthly report, as a signal that no German interest rate cut was on the table yet. On the other hand, a batch of U.S. economic statistics produced results that continued to point to slow economic recovery, but were, nevertheless, not weak enough to prompt Federal Reserve to cut interest rates.

The U.S. unit dropped to its lowest levels of the week against the mark, at 1.4542 marks Thursday in technically dominated trading. It rebounded Friday against European currencies, as market anxiety over ERM currencies triggered safe-haven demand for both the dollar and the yen.

A Bank of England's base rate cut of one per cent brought the pound sharply lower across the board. As the British pound preached key support at 200 yen per pound, it intensified the yen's appreciation against all major currencies, including the dollar. Apart from emerging talk that the yen was undervalued, the Japanese currency gained further support from reports that the Japanese trade surplus had widened by 25 per cent in September from a year ago, whereas the U.S. trade deficit surged to \$9 billion in August, from \$7.28 billion in July.

While expectations over the dollar's direction this week remain mixed, some observers maintained that the dollar could ease again in a technical correction, after speculation over the outcome of the EC emergency summit in Birmingham subsided.

### New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	9/10/92	16/10/92	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6920	1.6485	(2.57)%
Deutsche Mark	1.4880	1.4804	(0.51)%
Swiss Franc	1.3160	1.3225	(0.49)%
French Franc	5.0460	5.0295	(0.33)%
Japanese Yen	121.85	119.50	(1.97)%

USD Per STG

### Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	9/10/92	16/10/92	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.43	3.18	3.56		
Sterling Pound	8.94	8.18	8.25	7.38		
Deutsche Mark	9.00	8.00	8.87	8.00		
Swiss Franc	6.00	6.12	6.00	6.25		
French Franc	11.50	9.62	10.93	9.63		
Japanese Yen	4.06	3.62	3.96	3.62		

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 M. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.679	.681
Sterling Pound	1.1172	1.1228
Deutsche Mark	.4577	.4600
Swiss Franc	.5127	.5154
French Franc	.1348	.1355
Japanese Yen	.5680	.5708
Dutch Guilder	.4086	.4086
Swedish Krona	.1214	.1220
Italian Lira	.0522	.0525
Belgian Franc	.02224	.02235

\* Per 100

## World Bank study finds 1/3 of projects unsatisfactory

**WASHINGTON (R)** — A World Bank study found that one-third of the projects the organization has financed have not lived up to expectations, but a senior official cautioned against reading too much into the figure.

"This report is written for an internal audience," said Atila Karasmanoglu, managing director for the World Bank. "It is a no-holds-barred type of effort that tries to put the situation as stark as possible."

The bank hands out tens of billions of dollars in loans each year to finance a variety of projects in developing nations — from building roads to supporting economic reforms. It has more than \$100 billion in loans outstanding.

The findings of the study, which came at the initiative of

World Bank President Lewis Preston, shocked some Western officials but Mr. Karasmanoglu said they must be put in context.

The standards that the bank sets for its loans are not easy. If a project does not earn the equivalent of a 10 per cent return on the bank's money, it is judged unsatisfactory.

But it doesn't stop there. Some projects have as many as ten objectives — from enhancing the role of women in the developing country concerned to improving the nation's financial practices. If one or two of those objectives are not achieved, the project is deemed unsatisfactory.

"We are not only looking at brick and mortar," Mr. Karasmanoglu said. The report's findings are also in

line with conclusions drawn in a separate study of the activities carried out by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

But that doesn't mean the bank isn't taking the report seriously. "The success of that work is partly on our shoulders, but it is also on the shoulders of developing countries and other donors," Mr. Karasmanoglu said.

If developing countries clearly assume responsibility for the projects and assign them a high priority, that would help ensure their success, he said.

At the request of Japan, the World Bank is carrying out another study of the economic success enjoyed by Tokyo and Asia's newly industrialising nations to see if that can be translated into promoting development elsewhere in the world.

## Kuwait Asia Bank to close

**MANAMA (R)** — Kuwait Asia Bank, a Bahrain-based offshore banking unit (OBU), is liquidating its assets and will close down within two years, a bank official has said.

"The bank is in liquidation as of today (Sunday)," Acting General Manager John Bonnici told Reuters.

Bahrain's ministry of commerce and the Bahrain Monetary

Agency (BMA) have to ratify the shareholders' decision, he said.

Mr. Bonnici said shareholders of the bank, owned mainly by Kuwaiti firms, had decided to wind down the bank within two years but the step was "flexible."

Shareholders held a crucial meeting in Bahrain Sunday to decide on its future after its assets shrunk to \$49 million at end-

September 1992 \$77 million at the end of 1991.

"The majority of board of directors voted in favour of liquidating the bank," Mr. Bonnici said.

Kuwait Asia Bank, like many other Bahrain-based OBUs, was hard hit by the Gulf crisis caused by the loss of business confidence following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The bank said last June it made a net 1991 loss of \$1 million compared with a shortfall of \$42 million the previous year.

Kuwait Asia is the second offshore bank to decide to wind operations this year in Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial centre.

The BMA said in June that Bahrain Arab International Bank E.C. (BAIB), a Kuwaiti-owned offshore banking unit was liquidating its assets in preparation for closure.

BAIB changed its name from Al Bahrain Arab African Bank after it was taken over in 1989 by Kuwait Middle East Finance Company — a subsidiary of Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East — and Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Company.

There were 46 OBUs operating in Bahrain at end-March 1992 compared to 75 in the mid-1970s when foreign banks rushed in at the start of the oil boom.

## Kuwait bourse chief sees increase in trade

**KUWAIT (R)** — Trading on Kuwait's stock exchange is expected to build up in coming months as confidence returns to an economy pounded by Iraq's invasion two years ago, the exchange's director-general Hisham Al Otaibi said Sunday.

"You can expect about a 20 per cent increase," Mr. Otaibi told Reuters in an interview, referring to the period from the reopening of the exchange on Sept. 28 to the end of next June.

He said the value of trading on the Kuwaiti bourse stood at about \$1.7 billion (500 million dinars) per year before Iraq's invasion on Aug. 2, 1990, which led the exchange to close.

Iraq's invasion pierced Kuwait's economy in the heart, forcing it to rebuild the industry serving its life-blood commodity oil after retreating Iraqi troops blew up some 700 oil wells.

Kuwait has since repaired the wells and brought production almost to its pre-invasion OPEC quota level, but it will have to service debts such as a \$5.5 billion credit signed with Gulf war costs. Its budget deficit hit a record \$18.3 billion in fiscal 1991-92.

In the last trading week turnover stood at a daily average of

some 140 transactions, representing a daily turnover of 1.83 million dinars (\$6.3 million), according to bourse figures.

This was well above a pre-invasion daily average of 80 to 100 transactions, representing a turnover of between 750,000 and one million dinars (\$2.6 to \$3.4 million).

Mr. Otaibi said the increase "shows confidence in the economy," an unwillingness to invest in volatile world stock markets and his expectation that some 20 firms, mostly Kuwaiti, would join the bourse by the end of this year.

"We might end up with 50 companies by the end of the year," he said. He hoped the addition would include commercial Bank of Kuwait, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait and Gulf Bank, which would mean that all six commercial banks would be listed.

He said 36 companies were listed prior to the invasion.

Mr. Otaibi said the exchange would reestablish contact with a British and a Canadian company which had shown an interest in being listed on the bourse prior to the invasion to ask whether they still wished to be listed. He declined to identify them.

Foreign firms may be quoted on the Kuwaiti exchange if they

comply with bourse rules, he said. For example, they must already be listed on a major international stock exchange.

Currently five non-Kuwaiti Gulf-based companies are listed, but there are no firms from outside the region.

Mr. Otaibi said the Kuwaiti bourse should attract foreign institutional investors because it is a highly regulated market and the economy is poised for growth because it is rebuilding after the Iraqi occupation.

He said foreign investors could invest in Kuwaiti unit trusts but were not allowed to own shares in Kuwaiti firms.

"Kuwaiti unit trusts will be listed in Kuwait in the near future," he said. "A law has already been passed." Now only Gulf region investors may own Kuwaiti shares.

Asked why bank shares had dominated trading activity since the bourse reopened, Mr. Otaibi said the banking sector was traditionally dominant.

He said banks attracted funds because the rebuilding of the country enabled them to lend to industry.

In recent weeks shares in the buoyant services sector including mobile telephones and computer sales have been strong, but real estate shares were weak.

## U.S., citing abuses, wants new U.N. audit

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — A United States senator has called for an expanded audit of United Nations accounts for the two-year period 1990-1991 to probe serious deficiencies and abuses revealed in the current audit.

"This audit should also take into account recent public revelations concerning mismanagement and corruption in specific United Nations programmes, departments and expert bodies," said Senator Larry Pressler, a Republican.

The 1990-1991 regular budget for the United Nations, apart from its various specialised bodies or peace-keeping operations, totalled just over \$2 billion.

Mr. Pressler, who is a member of the U.S. delegation to the

current assembly, made his statement to the General Assembly's administrative and budgetary committee.

"Until such an examination is undertaken, and the results are submitted to the next session, the United States does not believe the General Assembly should approve the results of the audit of the accounts of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-91," said Mr. Pressler of his requested audit.

A member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he said the U.N. Secretariat acknowledged the ineffectiveness of systems for controlling salaries and benefits, totalling nearly 75 per cent of the U.N. regular budget.

He called for a list of all former staff members receiving U.N. pensions who were employed again by the organisation and earning over a \$12,000 ceiling established 10 years ago.

He said the audit report indicated the U.N. Secretariat could not match personnel and payroll records with the approved staffing table. Less than 20 per cent of purchase orders at U.N. headquarters were subject to competitive bidding.

Washington was troubled by a case of fraud committed by staff members of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The audit report said a case of mismanagement and misappropriation involving \$689,359 occurred in an unnamed branch office of that agency.

Last week, the U.N. undersecretary-general for administration and management, former U.S. attorney-General Dick Thornburgh, told the same panel the Secretary-General Boutros Ghali would propose the creation of a system-wide inspector general for the United Nations.

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## Heavy mortar fire greets reopening of Sarajevo road

SARAJEVO (R) — A barrage of tank, mortar and heavy machinegun fire shattered 10 days of relative calm in Sarajevo Sunday following the unblocking of a vital supply route to the besieged city.

At least one person was killed and more than 20 wounded in the first half hour of the firing, which came shortly after U.N. officials succeeded in clearing the main road from the airport, cut by the city's Bosnian defenders since Thursday.

The city centre and the Hasno suburb to the south were hit by shells apparently coming from Serb-held positions in Grbavica. Police blocked off the main road past the Holiday Inn Hotel because of incoming and outgoing fire and heavy sniping.

Doctors at the two main hospitals in the city centre were deluged with casualties.

The French Hospital received five wounded in 10 minutes, one of them with serious head injuries. The hospital itself was hit by five mortar bombs which caused damage but no further injuries.

At the larger Kosevo Hospital 16 wounded arrived, many of them seriously injured. One man's arm was amputated at the shoulder and a body was seen being taken into the morgue. In the trauma clinic, staff mopped blood from the floor as other victims were being brought in on stretchers.

Although the sudden outbreak of firing came shortly after the removal of the Bosnian barriers, the two events were apparently unconnected.

Government forces said the roadblock had been placed to hinder an imminent Serb tank attack, but United Nations peacekeeping force found no evidence of this.

The U.N. gained agreement Saturday for removal of the barrier — a large freight container — in exchange for increased security along the route.

On Sunday morning, as U.N. soldiers looked on, a bulldozer driven by a Bosnian soldier shoved the container into the ditch and scraped away the earth barrier behind it.

A U.N. armoured personnel carrier will stand by the road all day and a container on wheels will be dragged across it after dark each night.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, Sarajevo Radio reported that 70 per cent of the town of Olovo, north of the capital, had been demolished in a week of Serb artillery and infantry attacks.

To the north, Gradacac again came under fire Saturday night, the radio said, and Serb infantry attempted another breakthrough at Magjic.

Jajce, a crossroads town south of the Bosnian Serb military base of Banja Luka, was again heavily shelled, it said.

Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency, quoting the Serb military command, spoke of fighting in Herzegovina to the west and in eastern Bosnia, but did not mention the attacks further north.

Tanjug said action continued near the Herzegovinian towns of Mostar, Stolic, Capljina and Trebinje and that Bosnian government forces had attempted breakthroughs in the region of Kalinovik, Foca, Gorazde and Visegrad to the east, but without success.

None of the reports could be independently verified.

In Banja Luka, a senior U.N. military official was due to meet Serb Air Force chiefs to discuss the planned handing over of their war planes to Yugoslavia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic agreed to the move last week to avert the threat of direct U.N. action to prevent the planes being used against Muslim towns and civilians.

His agreement provoked a furious reaction from his air force commander, Zivomir Ninkovic, but Karadzic was apparently sure enough that he would be obeyed to cancel planes to fly to Banja Luka.

After returning Saturday from the Geneva peace talks on Yugoslavia he spent the night in Belgrade and was due to return to his headquarters at Pale, outside Sarajevo, later in the day.

Meanwhile, Muslim and Croat guerrillas who plundered Serb villages in northern Bosnia surrendered their weapons Saturday in return for a safe passage out of Serb-held territories.

International Red Cross officials who helped negotiate the exchange at Kotor Varos, 30 kilometres south of the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, said it went without a hitch.

About 400 men who had been armed and 1,200 villagers accompanying them boarded buses to be driven to Travnik in Muslim and Croat-held territory further south.

Serb army sources in Banja Luka said Serb authorities proposed the safe passage after heavy loss of life in the mountain region during raids by the group.

In one attack several weeks ago, about 15 sleeping Serbs were killed and their village Srdari destroyed.

The guerrillas left their villages in the region earlier this year when Serb forces outnumbered them.

They retreated to mountain-top lairs where the Serbs were unable to dislodge them.

They agreed to surrender along with their families only when their ammunition began to run low, the army said.

Fighters in the Muslim village of Vecici, high above Kotor Varos, are still refusing to surrender.

The men who gave up their weapons Saturday were led to an open space in front of a Kotor Varos factory by a Red Cross vehicle.

They included a hardcore of 40 men wearing combat fatigues.

The weapons they turned in included Kalashnikov automatic weapons and grenade launchers as well as hunting rifles.

The group were being driven to Travnik on 32 buses with an escort of Serb police as well as the Red Cross.



Deng Xiaoping

## Chinese Party revamps Central Committee

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party closed its first congress for five years Sunday with a ringing endorsement of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's economic plans and a sweeping reshuffle of its powerful Central Committee.

The closing session of the congress voted in 189 full members and 130 alternate members of the committee, 46.7 per cent of whom were new.

"The new Central Committee, with an average age of 56.3, is composed of veterans long tested in revolutionary struggles, middle-aged persons holding important leading posts, who are in the prime of their life, and also promising young cadres," Xinhua said.

It said 61 per cent of the new committee members were below 55.

It commented that this is "evidence that the Communist Party of China is full of vigour and vitality and has a train of successors."

The full extent of changes Mr. Deng has forced upon the Communist Party since coming out of seclusion in January to campaign for an overhaul of the Socialist economy will be seen Monday, when the new Central Committee will elect a politburo and standing committee, which run China on a day-to-day basis.

The retirements of Mr. Song and Mr. Yao from the Standing Committee create two vacancies on the body, which has had six members.

Some Chinese sources have said the Standing Committee will be expanded to seven, with three men who approve of Mr. Deng's policies moving up.

Party chief Jiang, who came to power after the June 4, 1989, army assault on Tiananmen Square to end pro-democracy unrest, and Premier Li Peng, who ordered martial law in the capital during the demonstrations, were both reelected to the Central Committee and are expected to remain at the apex of power on the Standing Committee.

Mr. Yang and Mr. Qin will retain their government posts, at least for now.

"I declare the 14th party congress victoriously over," Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin declared in Peking's Great Hall of the People before some 2,000 delegates.

The congress, China's first since the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, unanimously endorsed a report outlining the 88-year-old Deng's plan to save Communist political rule by using capitalist economic.

"Comrade Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of China's reform, opening up and modernisation programme, has made major historic contributions," Xinhua quoted the report as saying.

Mr. Deng himself did not appear at the closing ceremony, however, although he was a specially invited delegate.

Mr. Deng, who realises that he might not live the five years until another congress, has been concerned about leaving an indelible legacy.

The congress gave much of what he had asked for, abolishing an advisory committee — made up

primarily of hardline Marxist revolutionaries opposed to his policies and putting younger, more technocratic faces in the Central Committee.

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## Angolan government: UNITA plans partition

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government, on the brink of war with the main opposition party UNITA over the results of last month's elections, accused its rival Sunday of planning to seize the south and partition the country.

The governor of the southern city of Huambo, where opposition and former rebel leader Jonas Savimbi retreated after the elections, said UNITA was preparing for partition by deploying its forces in Huambo and other cities.

Governor Baltasar Manuel, in a statement broadcast on state radio Sunday, said the government demanded UNITA withdraw its forces under international supervision.

"The Huambo government finally appeals to all political parties to repudiate war, for if war erupts, the parties will vanish in the same way they came into existence with the advent of peace," he said.

Officials of the ruling MPLA party have also reported UNITA troop movements in Bie and Moxico, the provinces east of Huambo.

Diplomats said groups of UNITA men appeared to be in control of some towns but it was unclear if it was a coordinated action.

UNITA (The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) insists it wants peace and blames the MPLA (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) for the tension.

In the capital Luanda at least two people were killed when UNITA men fired on MPLA supporters celebrating the announcement that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the MPLA beat Mr. Savimbi and UNITA in the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The military activity has cast a shadow over the mediation work which made it possible for the government to announce the results. UNITA had previously said it would take up arms again if the results came out before a full investigation into its allegations of massive electoral fraud.

Mr. dos Santos won 49.57 per cent in the presidentials, just short of the 50 per cent he needed to avoid a second round of voting against Mr. Savimbi, who came second with 40.07 per cent.

In the parliamentary elections the MPLA won 124 seats in the 223-seat parliament, against 67 for UNITA.

Senior UNITA official Elias Salputo Pena said the movement was unhappy with the results but denied it wanted a civil war. The UNITA radio station Vorgan has been saying the movement was robbed of victory.

The MPLA, apparently losing patience with UNITA's ambiguous attitude to the elections, said Saturday there would be no presidential second round unless the opposition movement disarmed, allowed the central government to take control of UNITA-held areas and returned its generals to the national army.

Mr. Savimbi withdrew the former rebel commanders when the first partial results showed the count was going against him.

Diplomats said peace could depend on a summit between Mr. dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi, planned for Monday.

"We need to get the parties together as soon as possible and resolve this problem with dialogue," said a U.S. diplomat.

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## COLUMN

### Country singer jailed for cursing

NASHVILLE (AP) — Country singer Lynn Anderson was jailed, serving a two-day sentence for violating a court order for cursing her ex-husband in front of their children. "I am serving this time even though I feel my freedom of speech has been violated, and doubt very seriously that any woman has ever received a similar sentence," Ms. Anderson said in a statement when she reported to the Metro Nashville Jail. Circuit Judge Muriel Robinson Rice sentenced Ms. Anderson last year after ruling the singer violated a court order by cursing and ridiculing ex-husband Harold (Spook) Stream III in front of their children, William Gray Stream, 13, and Melissa Stream, 11. The Tennessee court of appeals upheld the ruling in August. The order was issued during a legal battle between Mr. Stream and Ms. Anderson for custody of the children. Ms. Anderson, 45, is best known for the song (I Never Promised You A) Rose Garden.

### Russian 'polar bears' take 1st dip early this year

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's human "polar bears" took their first official dip of the outdoor swimming season in the frigid waters of a Moscow canal — rejoicing that winter's cold came a month early this year. "Come on in — the water feels great," said red-skinned, dripping Alexander Kedich, waving to an unconvinced reporter. Mr. Kedich, a Moscow welder, was one of about 40 Russian men and women from the Winter Swimming and Tempering Club who turned out for the annual event, normally held in mid-November. Known abroad as polar bears, the nationwide club's jolly members are called "walrus" by their countrymen. Local Walrus Clubs can be found across Russia, with more than 60 in Moscow alone. "The water temperature is only 3 degrees C (37 degrees Fahrenheit)," said Alexander Kolushkin, the walrus' 73-year-old president. "An ordinary person would soon die from swimming in this water." Why would anyone risk hypothermia to plunge into a canal where the water is so chilling it makes them shiver for hours afterward? "Because it gives you 'kife,'" said Mr. Kolushkin, using the Russian slang word for a euphoric, drug-induced high.

### Missing Polynesian canoe found with crew safe

AROTONGA, Cook Islands (AP) — A traditional Polynesian sailing canoe, built to re-enact ancient discoveries by islanders, was found after being reported missing in heavy seas. Police said its nine crew are safe. The sail and oar-powered wooden craft drifted off course on a voyage from Mangaia Island, 110 kilometres (68 miles) southeast of here. A Cook Islands Maritime Centre official, who asked not to be identified, said this would not have happened if the canoe's captain had waited for a scheduled escort ship before setting sail. The canoe is expected to arrive in Arotonga soon to join a fleet of traditional vessels from neighbouring island nations at a Pacific festival of arts. Rescuers had feared the worst after bad weather delayed Saturday's scheduled opening of the event by Britain's Prince Edward. Canoes from New Zealand, Hawaii, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands and Tahiti are also taking part. Centuries before European explorers arrived, islanders sailed across huge distances of ocean. Canoes also feature in island mythology.

### Cartoon cels draw \$1.25 million

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Sotheby's auction of cels and other original artwork from Walt Disney Pictures' Academy Award-winning movie *Beauty and the Beast* fetched \$1.25 million. One piece alone fetched \$44,000. The money raised was nearly twice the \$670,000 organizers had expected, said Matthew Weigman of Sotheby's. The \$44,000 paid for the one piece of work were to be donated in memory of Howard Ashman to the New York Gay Men's Health Crisis. Mr. Ashman and Alan Menken won an Oscar for Best Original Song for their work on the animated movie. Mr. Ashman, 40, died of AIDS complications last year. The 1991 movie was a box office success and the first animated film nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture.

## Russian officials slam nuclear moratorium

BELUSHYA GUBA, Russia (R) — Senior officials at Russia's only nuclear testing site say they oppose Moscow's unilateral ban on testing because it has allowed the United States to pull ahead in the race to develop new weapons.

The officials at the site on the Novaya Zemlya group of islands, far above the Arctic Circle, said the United States and China had continued testing during a moratorium declared by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"If everyone else is exploding nuclear weapons, why are we silent?" Captain Viktor Yarygin, acting commander of the site, told a news conference Friday evening.

Officials told a small group of foreign journalists, the first to visit the islands, they were allowed in because Moscow was fed up with what they said was biased and speculative reporting about the site.

The environmental group Greenpeace describes Novaya Zemlya as an ecological time-bomb. Coastguards have seized a Greenpeace ship that was trying to monitor radiation in the area.

The last nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya, 2,200 kilometres north of Moscow, took place in October 1990, a year before Mr. Yeltsin's moratorium.

Testing at the Semipalatinsk site in Kazakhstan was stopped two years ago after protests from environmentalists.

But Capt. Yarygin said tests were needed to check the efficiency of weapons and for civilian research programmes.

"The two years we've been silent are two years we've dropped behind, for military and scientific experiments," Capt. Yarygin told a small group of foreign journalists, allowed on to the islands by special order of Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

"The world is stable when we have parity, when the military potential is roughly equal. That's why we are worried."

Some 10,000 people work on Novaya Zemlya, two barren islands covered in deep snow for most of the year.

Most are based in the bleak settlement of Belushya Guba, a handful of battered buildings on the southern island.

Georgy Kurov, head of information at the Ministry of Atomic Energy who worked on Novaya Zemlya for 11 years, said only one test had been carried out at the site in the last four years.

"The United States is working on the creation of a third generation of nuclear weapons and to this end they are carrying out nuclear tests. We have not been carrying out such tests for four years," he said.

Mr. Kurov said the new generation of weapons was designed to be more accurate.

U.S. President George Bush, under pressure from Congress, signed a bill two weeks ago halting nuclear tests. But he vowed to undercut the ban through further legislation to allow the United States to carry out "a modest number" of tests.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Moscow is selling weapons to China

NEW YORK (R) — Russia is selling missile-guidance technology, rocket engines and other advanced weapons systems to China, the New York Times, quoting U.S. officials, reported in its Sunday editions. The exports to Peking are cause for worry and undercut efforts to stem the spread of arms, Mr. Bush administration officials told the newspaper. The officials said Washington feared that the advanced technology would be re-sold by Peking to Third World countries. "You don't know what the Chinese will do with the stuff once they get the high-tech capabilities," one unnamed official was quoted as saying. Arms factories and military-related institutes have been forced to seek export possibilities in the face of a reduction in military spending and shortage of hard currency, the newspaper reported. One senior Bush administration official told the newspaper that in addition to weapons, Moscow was selling technology to the Chinese that could be used to enrich uranium.

### Greenpeace ship towed into Murmansk

MURMANSK, Russia (R) — A Greenpeace ship seized by Russian coastguards while trying to monitor radiation in the Arctic was towed into the northern port of Murmansk early Sunday. Border guards refused to allow journalists on board the Dutch-registered Solo, except for a Russian television team. The international environmental organisation says the ship was outside Russian territorial waters, east of the Novaya Zemlya Archipelago, when it was intercepted last Monday. A border guards spokesman has said the Solo was inside Russian waters and the 34 crew, scientists and journalists on board could face prosecution.

### Crack found in Lithuanian reactor

VILNIUS, Lithuania (R) — Inspectors examining a fault in Lithuania's Chernobyl-type nuclear power station found that radioactive water seeped into the plant from a tiny crack in a narrow pipe, a senior official said Sunday. But no radiation escaped into the environment and there was no danger to people living near Ignalina Nuclear plant, General Director Viktor Shevardin said, the Lithuanian News Agency (ELTA) reported. The reactor is built to the same design as the Chernobyl reactor in Ukraine, which exploded in April 1986 in the world's worst nuclear disaster. Mr. Shevardin said about 200 litres of radioactive water a day had leaked into the plant through a 10 mm (half-inch) crack in the narrow pipe. Repair work had already started but the reactor would not be reopened before Oct 23. The reactor was shut down Thursday after the leak. The other two reactors at the plant, which is about 60 kilometres north of the capital Vilnius, have already been closed for routine maintenance.

### Khmer Rouge deny bridge destruction

PHNOM PENH (R) — The hardline Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction has formally denied responsibility for destroying two bridges in central Cambodia. In a statement, it accused the United Nations of "deliberate distortion" after the military commander of the U.N. peacekeeping operation, Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, blamed the guerrilla group for the Oct. 14 attacks in Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom provinces. The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) called them "a most serious ceasefire violation." The Khmer Rouge statement, dated Oct. 15 and seen Sunday, accused Vietnamese and Phnom Penh government forces of conducting military operations on National Highways 6, 7 and 21, where the attacks happened. "In their operations, they have committed repressions against the civilian population, forcibly enlisted their sons, compelled them to vote for the puppets, plundered property, rice, cattle and foodstuffs and massacred them," the statement said. The Khmer Rouge is refusing to implement a peace agreement signed by the four Cambodian factions in October last year.

### Indian premier to visit Nepal

KATHMANDU (R) — India's Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao flies to Nepal Monday to smooth ties still recovering from a bitter trade feud three years ago, officials sources said. Indian diplomats in Nepal described Mr. Rao's trip as a "goodwill visit." Three years ago when the late Rajiv Gandhi was prime minister, India virtually closed its border with landlocked Nepal, allowing only a trickle of goods from third countries to pass through border checkpoints. Three Indian governments have come and gone since then. Nepal emerged from a bloody pro-democracy campaign two years ago with a new constitution circumscribing the powers of its once absolute monarch and a Nepali Congress Party government traditionally friendly to India.

### France adopts anti-corruption law

PARIS (AP) — The National Assembly adopted a watered-down anti-corruption law in response to a series of scandals eroding the governing Socialist Party's credibility. After an all-night debate, the Assembly approved the bill 272 votes to 256, with the Socialists supporting it and conservatives and centrists against. Communist legislators abstained.

## Hanoi cites agreement with U.S. on MIA issue

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's foreign minister said Hanoi reached agreement Sunday with a senior U.S. delegation which came seeking greater cooperation in discovering the fate of American servicemen missing in action (MIA) from the Vietnam War. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam told General John Vessey, a special U.S. presidential envoy, he was pleased with progress made during day-long meetings in Hanoi.

"I'm very glad that you have reached agreement with (Vietnamese) Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai this morning and this afternoon," Mr. Cam said during a photo opportunity at the beginning of a meeting with Gen. Vessey and his delegation.

"I can say that all the agreements we reached...with (then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State) Richard Solomon have been fulfilled," Mr. Cam said.

It was unclear which agreement was reached Sunday, but Vietnamese sources said earlier the U.S. delegation had requested more access to Vietnamese military documents which might show what happened to servicemen who never made it home.

Rumours that Americans were being held in Indochina and the circulation of fake photographs supposedly showing them have helped block the normalisation of U.S.-Vietnamese relations and a lifting of Washington's embargo against Hanoi.

Mr. Cam told Mr. Solomon last March Hanoi would allow U.S. investigators to travel around Vietnam at short notice.

The New York Times in its lead editorial Sunday addressed the economic plans of the candidates. It wrote that "Bush responds asymmetrically to unemployment with untargeted cuts in capital gains taxes" and called his health care proposals "typically incomplete."

The paper, which has not yet endorsed a candidate, said Democratic challenger Bill Clinton's programme for long-term growth was "sound, even exciting."

Independent Ross Perot's plan to cut the deficit is "bold and honest" but if deficits were cut at the expense of productive investment, "the plan would do more harm than good," the newspaper wrote.

A Newsweek magazine poll

released Saturday, just over two weeks before the election, showed that Mr. Clinton widened his lead over Mr. Bush, 46 per cent compared to the president's 31 and Mr. Perot's 14 per cent. A poll conducted a week earlier showed Mr. Clinton with 44 per cent, Mr. Bush 35 per cent and Mr. Perot 12 per cent.

The current poll, with a four point margin of error, found that a majority of voters are dissatisfied with Mr. Bush's attacks on Clinton's Vietnam draft record and the U.S. State Department's search of overseas records regarding Clinton's anti-war activity.